

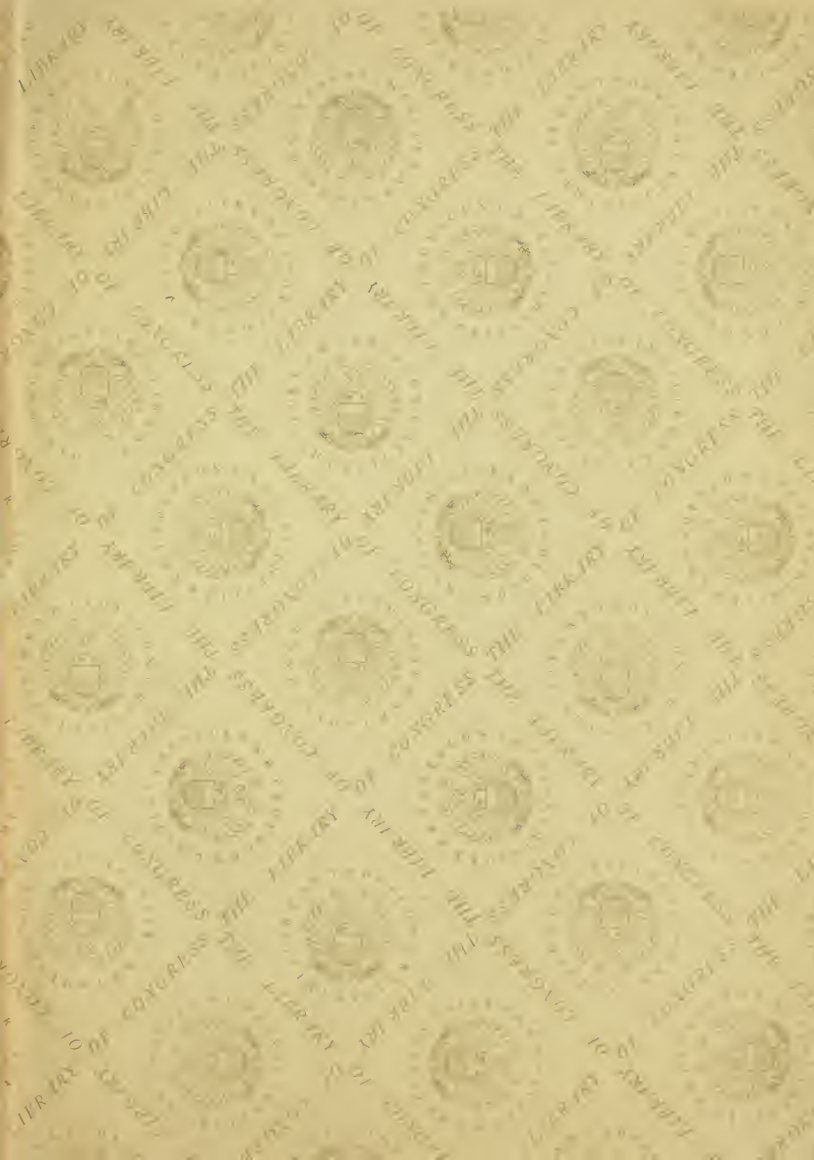
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A CENTENNIAL OFFERING.

BEING A BRIEF

HISTORY OF COOPERSTOWN

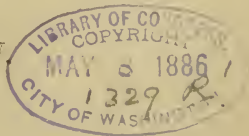
WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER,

BY HON. ISAAC N. ARNOLD,

TOGETHER WITH OTHER INTERESTING LOCAL FACTS
AND DATA.

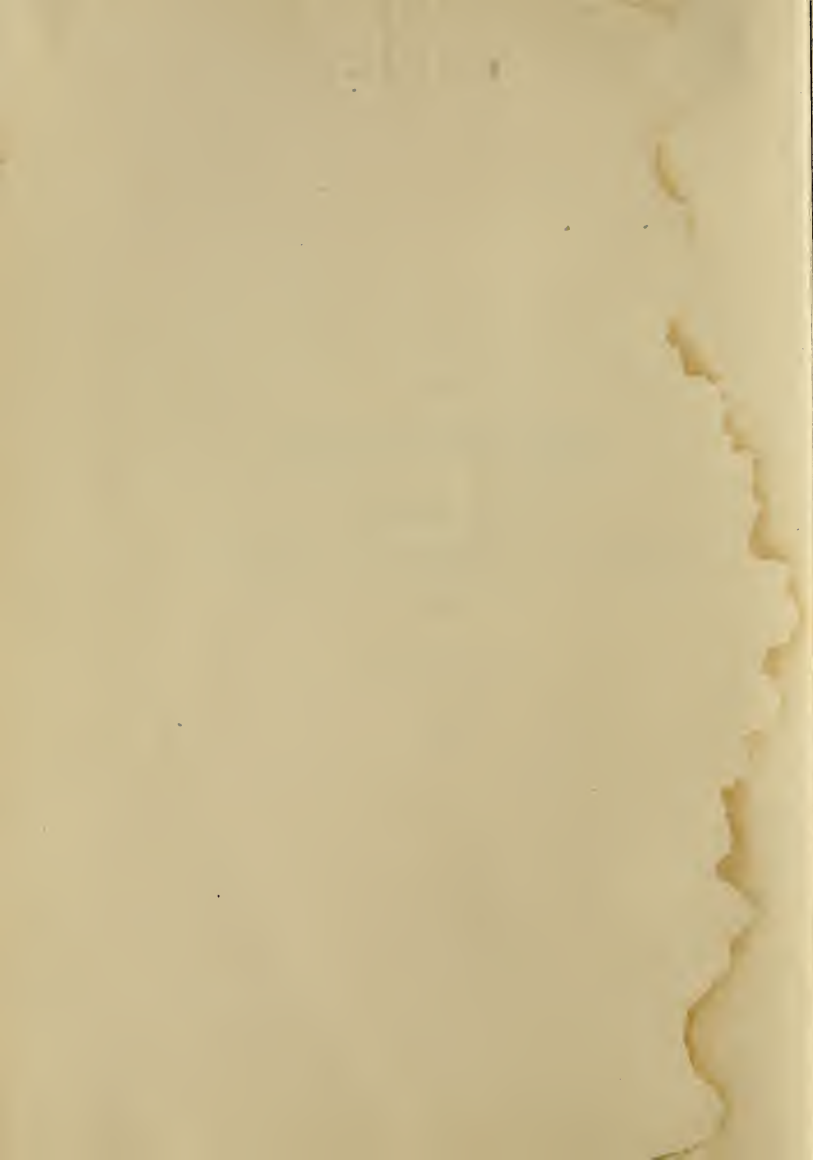
EDITED BY S. M. SHAW.



COOPERSTOWN, N. Y.:

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1886.



P R E F A C E .

There has been an expressed desire on the part of many of the residents of Cooperstown, for several years past, for a new and more complete "History of Cooperstown," than has heretofore been published, the old volume bearing that title being out of print; and since it was issued in 1862 many events of local interest have transpired which should go upon record. In compliance with this general desire and an occasional personal request on the subject, I have undertaken to collate and edit this volume, which is issued a century after the first settlement of Cooperstown; with what degree of success as to meeting the just expectations of my esteemed fellow-citizens of one of the most noted villages in this country, I must leave to their kind judgment. I will only say, I have conscientiously and with much pleasure done the best I could with the material and time at my command, and have preserved for some other writer at a later period, material that otherwise might have been lost.

Next to Mr. Cooper's "Chronicles"—which were carried down to 1838—the most prominent feature of this book is the appreciative tribute which the late Hon. Isaac N. Arnold of Chicago, formerly of Cooperstown, paid to the memory of Mr. Cooper in an Essay which first appeared in the Freeman's Journal in 1884. He had a few copies of the same, illustrated by a number of photographic views, printed in pamphlet form. This tribute of a scholarly and well-known author and admiring personal friend of Mr. Cooper, has been sought for by literary writers and publishers in different parts of the country, by some of whom it is esteemed the best essay ever written on America's most noted Novelist and naval Historian. S. M. S.

OTSEGO LAKE AND VICINITY.

It is doubtful whether any white man ever visited the shores of this beautiful inland lake previous to the year 1737—nearly a century and a half ago—at which time it was the favorite resort of the red man. In 1737, Cadwallader Colden, surveyor-general, in his report to the Hon. George Clarke, lieutenant-governor of the province of New York, made this statement: "At 50 miles from Albany, the land carriage from the Mohawk river to a lake, from whence the northern branch of the Susquehanna takes its rise, does not exceed 14 miles. Goods may be carried from this lake in battoes or flat-bottomed vessels, through Pennsylvania, to Maryland and Virginia, the current of the river running everywhere easy."

In 1753 the Rev. Gideon Hawley—"ordained a Missionary to the Indians, in the Old South meeting house [of Boston,] when the Rev. Dr. Sewall preached on the occasion"—journeyed as far as here, and left on record this memorandum: "May 31st. We met with difficulty about getting a canoe, and sent an Indian into the woods to get ready a bark, but he made small progress. In the afternoon came from Otsego lake, which is the source of this stream"—the Susquehanna. It is probable that other christian Missionaries made the same journey at a later period, to this part of the territory of the Six Nations.

What was long known as the "Bowers Patent," in Middlefield, was originally owned by John R. Myer, of the city of New York. His daughter married Henry Bowers, who was the father of John M. Bowers, and who inherited the large tract of land which subsequently bore his name. John Nichols was the first settler who lived on this patent, in a little house which stood near the river on "the Lakelands." He leased a tract of land, and made the first clearing on this patent. It was at his house that Mr. Henry Bowers and his wife first lodged. Nichols' log house was burned in 1802, at the time the timber was burned which was being kiln-dried for the construction of the mansion of Mr. Bowers, who had that day left for Albany.

In 1791, when Cooperstown had but few dwellings, Mr. Henry

Bowers caused to be laid out and surveyed by Philip R. Frey, the proposed village of "Bowerstown," which extended from the Susquehanna river to the base of the hill on the east, and from the Lake to a point about 950 feet south thereof. The map of this projected village, now in the possession of Mr. H. J. Bowers, shows that this plat of land—now represented by "the Lakelands" and 350 feet south of the road which forms its southern boundary—was laid out in 82 building lots, nearly all of them 50x130 feet, and in a building lot 200x260 feet for the "Manor Square" on which Mr. Bowers proposed to build, and being part of "the Lakelands," near the Lake and River. "Division street" was to be "as wide as Cooper's street," and started from the eastern termination of our present Main street. "Bridge street" was the northern boundary, and terminated on the west at the first bridge built across the Susquehanna. "Water," "Myer" and "Washington" streets ran north and south through the village. "Otsego" street ran from a point on Bridge street north, near the Lake, where the present owner of "the Lakelands" has constructed an avenue. Later on, Mr. Bowers probably changed his plans, for we do not learn that these "village lots" were ever put upon the market. It is a pity that "Cooperstown" was not originally as well laid out as "Bowers-town." The former will probably ere long cross the river, by legislative enactment, and embrace within its corporate limits all of the former, and a tract of land lying east and south of it.

A saw mill was built by Rob't Riddle, on Bowers patent, on Red Creek, in 1791, being the first saw mill in this part of the country, and one has been maintained there until now. This locality, now embracing a number of dwellings, school house, mission church, and the mills, has long been locally known as "Bowerstown."

In 1783, a little more than a century ago, came Gen. Washington, as is mentioned in the "Chronicles," who said in his published letter: "I then traversed the country to the head of the eastern branch of the Susquehanna, and viewed the lake Otsego."

When the Editor of this book came here in 1851, he had the pleasure of meeting two venerable ladies who had been well acquainted with General Washington, and who had met him in society, with other Revolutionary celebrities and chiefs—Mrs. Wilson, whose father was at one time on Gen. Washington's staff, and her daughter Mrs. Bowers. We often listened with great pleasure to the personal reminiscences of the latter of Washington, Lafayette, Baron Steuben,

HISTORY OF COOPERSTOWN.

and other patriots of the Revolution. Mrs. Bowers had a most remarkably retentive memory and a thoroughly-disciplined and well-educated mind ; hence she was a delightful conversationalist.

After the power of the Six Nations had been broken in the Mohawk valley, and the warlike tribe which gave its name to that locality had been driven further west, the great Indian Confederacy still held sway about Otsego Lake and along the whole distance of the Susquehanna valley, and west to Canada. The Tories and British were constantly inciting them to deeds of violence. The Cherry Valley Massacre occurred in November, 1778. The following year the government determined if possible to deal a death-blow to the power of the Six Nations, and it was in the summer of 1779 that Gen. Clinton, commanding one wing of the army sent against them, marched from Canajoharie through an unbroken wilderness to the head of Otsego Lake, carrying with him 220 boats and three months' provisions. His command consisted of about 1,500 troops, and they reached the present site of Cooperstown, July 1. During their stay of several weeks, awaiting the more tardy operations of Gen. Sullivan, whose column had advanced from Wyoming on Tioga, Gen. Clinton employed his men in building the dam spoken of in the "Chronicles." When the water was high enough to answer his purpose, he embarked his army, broke away the dam, and was soon carried by the accumulated waters to the point where he joined Sullivan, near Tioga, August 22d. The battle which followed, in which the Indian Chief Joseph Brant and his Tory and British allies were routed after an obstinate conflict, with great loss to their combined forces, ended the prestige and almost destroyed the power of the Six Nations in this part of the country ; and from that day their supremacy, which had at one time extended across the continent, rapidly faded away. Otsego had suffered its last Indian incursion ; and from that time forward only occasionally a few straggling Indians were seen in the cabins of its white settlers.

At this point we introduce Mr. Cooper's record of local events, extending from 1785 to 1838 :

THE CHRONICLES OF COOPERSTOWN.

BY JAMES FENIMORE-COOPER.

11

INTRODUCTION.

It is always desirable to possess authentic annals. The peculiar nature of American history, which commences in an enlightened age, renders that which is so desirable, in our case, practicable, and, with a view that posterity may know the leading facts connected with the origin and settlement of the village of Cooperstown, and that even the present generation may be set right in some important particulars concerning which erroneous notions now prevail, as well as possess a convenient book of reference, the following little work has been written.

This book has been compiled with care, by consulting authentic public records, private documents, more especially those in possession of the Cooper family, and living witnesses, whose memories and representations might be confided in. It is hoped no error has been admitted into its pages, and it is believed no essential mistake can be pointed out. Where the compilers have not found good reasons to credit their evidence, they have proceeded with caution, and made their statements with due reserve.

A work of this character can not have a very extensive interest, but it is thought it will have some with a county in which its subject composes the seat of justice; and by those whose fathers were active in converting the wilderness around about us, into its present picture of comfort and civilization, no records of this nature can be regarded with indifference.

The love of particular places, such as the spots in which we were born, or have passed our lives, contributes to sustain all the affections, and to render us better citizens and better men. This love is strengthened and increased by familiarity with events, and as time throws its interest around the past, reverence and recollections add their influence to that of the natural ties. With a view to aid these sentiments, also, have our little labors been conducted. If those who come after the compilers of the Chronicles of Cooperstown, should do as much in their generation, they who inhabit the place a century hence, will, beyond question, be ready to acknowledge that in one essential duty they were not forgotten by their predecessors.

In the early annals of this place there was a disposition, as in all new countries, to exaggerate its growth and various printed notices exist, by which its origin is stated to be several years too recent. These errors, as well as several connected with deaths, &c., that exist even in the church registers, and other official documents, have been carefully corrected in this book. In this respect, it is thought no more authentic accounts of the several subjects can be found.

CHAPTER I.

The site of the present village of Cooperstown, is said to have been a favorite place of resort with the adjacent savage tribes, from a remote period. The tradition which has handed down this circumstance, is rendered probable by the known abundance of the fish and game in its vicinity. The word *otsego*, is thought to be a compound which conveys the idea of a spot at which meetings of the Indians were held. There is a small rock near the outlet of the lake, called the Otsego rock, at which precise point the savages, according to an early tradition of the country, were accustomed to rendezvous.

In confirmation of these traditions, arrow heads, stone hatchets, and other memorials of Indian usages, were found in great abundance by the first settlers, in the vicinity of the village.

It is probable that the place was more or less frequented by Indian traders, for a century previously to the commencement of the regular settlement of the township; but the earliest authentic account that exists of any attempt, by any civilized man, to establish himself at this point, refers to a much more recent period. On the 22d day of April, 1761, letters patent were granted to John Christopher Hartwick and others, for a considerable tract of land in this vicinity; and Mr. Hartwick, being under the impression that his grants extended to the shore of the lake, caused a clearing to be commenced not far from its outlet. Becoming satisfied that he had passed the boundaries of his estate, this gentleman soon relinquished his possession, and altogether abandoned the spot. This abortive attempt at settlement, took place about ten years before the commencement of the American war.

It appears by the documents in possession of the Cooper family, that Col. George Croghan, who was connected with the Indian department under the crown, obtained a conveyance from the Indians of 100,000 acres of land, lying north and adjacent to the before mentioned grant to Mr. Hartwick, and on the west side of the Susquehanna river, and of the Otsego lake, as early as the year 1768. On the 13th of December of the same year, Col. Croghan gave a mortgage under the Indian deed, to William Franklin, Esq., governor of the colony of New Jersey, to secure the payment of £3000; which money, as appears by the same documents, was obtained by Governor Franklin of certain persons in New Jersey, in the behalf of Col. Croghan, with a view to enable the latter to procure the regular title

to the same lands, from the crown. This object was not effected until the 30th of November, 1769, when letters patent were issued by the colonial government, granting the same tract to George Croghan and ninety-nine other persons; there existing an order to prevent grants of more than a thousand acres at a time to single individuals.

On the 2d day of December, 1769, the ninety-nine other persons named as grantees in the patent, conveyed in three separate instruments their rights to George Croghan, in fee simple. These three conveyances, with the patent, still exist among the Cooper papers, and are unquestionably the first legal instruments conveying real estate in the township of Otsego.

On the 10th day of March, 1770, George Croghan gave a mortgage on that portion of the Otsego patent, as the aforesaid grant was then called, which has since been called Cooper's patent, for the further security of the payment of the said sum of £3000; both of which mortgages, with the accompanying bond, were regularly assigned to the persons already mentioned, as security for their advances. On the 23d day of March, 1773, judgment was obtained against George Croghan, in the supreme court of the colony of New York, upon the aforesaid bond.

All the securities above mentioned, became vested in William Cooper and Andrew Craig of the city of Burlington, in the state of New Jersey, by various deeds of assignment, now in possession of the descendants of the former, as early as May, 1785.

Mr. Cooper first visited lake Otsego in the autumn of 1785. He was accompanied by a party of surveyors, his object being to ascertain the precise boundaries of the land covered by his mortgage and judgment.

This party arrived by the way of Cherry Valley and Middlefield, and first obtained a view of the lake from the mountain which has since been called the Vision, in consequence of the beauty of the view it then afforded. Judge Cooper has been often heard to say, that on that occasion he was compelled to climb a sapling, in order to obtain this view, and while in the tree, he saw a deer descend to the lake and drink of its waters, near the Otsego rock. In January, 1786, Mr Cooper took possession of the property that has since been known as Cooper's patent, under a deed given by the Sheriff of Montgomery county.

It ought to be mentioned, that in 1783, Washington, then on a journey of observation, with a view to explore the facilities for an inland communication by water, visited the foot of lake Otsego. We give the letter in which he speaks of this journey, entire, in the hope

that the opinions of this great man may draw public attention more closely to the subject of improving our natural advantages :

PRINCETON, October 12, 1783.

MY DEAR CHEVALIER—I have not had the honor of a letter from you since the 4th of March last ; but I will ascribe my disappointment to any cause sooner than to a decay of your friendship.

Having the appearances, and indeed the enjoyment of peace, without the final declaration of it, I, who am only waiting for the ceremonials, or till the British forces shall have taken their leave of New York, am held in an awkward and disagreeable situation, being anxiously desirous to quit the walks of public life, and under my own vine and my own fig-tree, to seek those enjoyments, and that relaxation, which a mind that has been constantly upon the stretch for more than eight years, stands so much in want of.

I have fixed this epoch to the arrival of the definitive treaty, or to the evacuation of my country, by our newly acquired friends ; in the meanwhile, at the request of Congress, I spend my time with them at this place, where they came in consequence of the riots at Philadelphia, of which, doubtless, you have been informed, for it is not a very recent transaction.

They have lately determined to fix the permanent residence of Congress, near the falls of Delaware ; but where they will hold their sessions, till they can be properly established at that place, is yet undecided.

I have lately made a tour through the lakes George and Champlain as far as Crown point—then returning to Schenectady, I proceeded up the Mohawk river to Fort Schuyler (formerly Fort Stanwix), crossed over Wood creek, which empties into the Oneida lake, and affords the water communication with lake Ontario ; I then traversed the country to the head of the eastern branch of the Susquehannah, and viewed the lake Otsego, and the portage between that lake and the Mohawk river at Canajoharie.

Prompted by these actual observations, I could not help taking a more contemplative and extensive view of the vast inland navigation of these United States, from maps, and the information of others, and could not but be struck with the immense diffusion and importance of it, and with the goodness of that Providence which has dealt her favors to us with so profuse a hand. Would to God we may have wisdom enough to make a good use of them. I shall not rest contented till I have explored the western part of this country, and traversed those lines (or a great part of them,) which have given bounds to a new empire ; but when it may, if it ever should happen, I dare

not say, as my first attention must be given to the deranged situation of my private concerns, which are not a little injured by almost nine years' absence, and total disregard of them.

With every wish for your health and happiness, and with the most sincere and affectionate regard,

I am, my dear Chevalier, your most obedient servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To the MARQUIS DE CHASTELLUX.

It should also be stated, that the present site of Cooperstown is connected with an event of some interest that occurred during the war of the revolution. An expedition having been commanded to proceed under the orders of Major General Sullivan, against the Indians who then dwelt in the vicinity of the Seneca lake, a brigade employed in the duty, under Brigadier General James Clinton (the father of the celebrated De Witt Clinton,) marched from Albany for that purpose. After ascending the Mohawk as far as Fort Plain, this brigade cut a road through the forest to the head of lake Otsego, whither it transported its boats. Traces of this road exist, and it is still known by the name of the Continental road. Embarking at the head of the lake, the troops descended to the outlet, where they encamped on the site of the present village. General Clinton's quarters are said to have been in a small building of hewn logs, which then stood in what are now the grounds of the Hall, and which it is thought was erected by Col. Croghan, as a place in which he might hold his negotiations with the Indians, as well as for the commencement of a settlement.

This building, which was about fifteen feet square and intended for a sort of block-house, was undoubtedly the first ever erected on this spot. It was subsequently used by some of the first settlers as a residence, and by Judge Cooper as a smoke house, and it was standing in 1797, if not a year later. It was then taken down and removed by Henry Pace Eaton, to his residence on the road to Pier's, where it was set up again as an out-house.

There were found the graves of two white men in the same grounds, which were believed to contain the bodies of deserters, who were shot during the time the troops were here encamped. These graves are supposed to be the first of any civilized man in the township of Otsego. All traces of them have now disappeared.

As soon as encamped, the troops of Gen. Clinton commenced the construction of a dam at the outlet, and when the water had risen to a sufficient height in the lake, the obstruction was removed, the current clearing the bed of the river of flood-wood. After a short delay,

for this purpose, the troops embarked and descended as far as the junction with the Tioga, where they were met by another brigade, commanded by General Sullivan in person.* On this occasion, the Susquehannah, below the dam, was said to be so much reduced that a man could jump across it.

Traces of the dam are still to be seen, and for many years they were very obvious.† At a later day, in digging the cellar of the house first occupied by Judge Cooper, a large iron swivel was discovered, which was said to have been buried by the troops, who found it useless for their service. This swivel was the only piece of artillery used for the purpose of salutes and merry-makings in the vicinity of Cooperstown, for ten or twelve years after the settlement of the place. It is well and affectionately remembered by the name of the Cricket, and was bursted lately in the same good cause of rejoicing on the 4th of July. At the time of its final disaster (for it had met with many vicissitudes by field and flood, having actually once been thrown into the lake,) it is said there was no very perceptible difference in size, between its touch-hole and its muzzle.

In addition to the foregoing statement, we are enabled to make the following brief history of the title to this tract of land, believing it may have interest with those who hold real estate within its limits. In this account, we include some matter foreign to the direct title, as explanatory of the whole.

On the 30th November, 1769, letters patent were issued, granting one hundred thousand acres of land to George Croghan and ninety-nine other persons as has been already stated.

December 2d, 1769, the ninety-nine other patentees conveyed, in three separate instruments, to George Croghan in fee.

On the 10th March, 1770, George Croghan mortgaged 40,000 acres of the above grant to William Franklin, as further security for the money borrowed to pay the fees, or the debt due the persons who were called the Burlington company. This mortgage included the present site of the village.

On the 12th March, 1770, George Croghan mortgaged 20,000 acres,

*In the Gazetteer of New York, it is said: "The Indians upon the banks, witnessing the extraordinary rise of the river at midsummer, without any apparent cause, were struck with superstitious dread, and in the very outset were disheartened at the apparent interposition of the Great Spirit in favor of their foes."

†The last of the logs of that dam were removed on the 26th of October 1825, while the entire State of New York was more jubilant, perhaps, than ever before or since, and cannon, placed a few miles apart, from Buffalo to Albany, and thence to Sandy Hook, were proclaiming that Gov. Clinton had entered the first canal boat at Buffalo, and was on his way to New York.

After the removal, the procession were marched into the village, and were there addressed by Samuel Starkweather, Esq., during all of which proceedings a nine pounder upon the top of Mount Vision, at regular intervals, told the hills and valleys around that Cooperstown was rejoicing.

being half of the above mentioned 40,000 acres, to Thomas Wharton, to secure another debt of £2,000.

On the 26th October, 1770, John Morton obtained a judgment of a large amount against George Croghan.

On the 22d March, 1773, judgment was obtained against George Croghan, for the debt due on his bond to William Franklin.

On the — April, 1775, George Croghan, William Franklin, Thomas Wharton and John Morton entered into an agreement in writing, that the 40,000 acres of land should be sold under the two judgments, and that the proceeds of the sale should go, firstly, to pay the judgment held by William Franklin; secondly, to pay the mortgage held by Thomas Wharton; and, thirdly, to pay the judgment held by John Morton; or as much of each, according to the priority of the debts and securities, as there should be assets. This agreement was never complied with, in consequence of the war of the revolution.

On the 20th December, 1775, William Franklin and his wife assigned the mortgage of George Croghan, on the 40,000 acres, and all the securities connected with it to five of the original lenders of the money, for their several shares of the debt, the remaining three accepting lands elsewhere for their claims; the amount of the shares of these five assignees being £1,500, New Jersey currency, with interest from the date of the bond.

On the 3d April, 1780, George Croghan conveyed in fee, 25,477 acres of the above mentioned 40,000, including the site of Cooperstown, to Joseph Wharton, subject to the two mortgages, for the consideration of £9.553, Pennsylvania currency; Mr. Wharton being induced to accept this land for a debt of that great amount, in consequence of Mr. Croghan's being unable to pay him in any other manner.

On the 26th June, 1780, George Croghan conveyed, in fee, the remainder of the same tract, to Joseph Wharton, for the consideration of £100, this being all the land in the Otsego patent that he had not conveyed in fee, previously to granting the two mortgages, and of course all that was subject to them.

By several deeds poll, made between the years 1776 and 1785, all the rights of the original lenders of the aforesaid sum, with the interest on it from 1768, in the several bonds, in the judgment of 1773, and in the oldest mortgage, were vested in William Cooper and Andrew Craig of Burlington, New Jersey.

On the 14th January, 1786, all the lands of George Croghan that were subject to the judgment of 1773, and which lay in the Otsego patent, being in amount as near as might be, 29,350 acres, were conveyed by Samuel Clyde, Sheriff of Montgomery county, to William Cooper and Andrew Craig, as judgment purchasers, under the judgment

aforesaid, for the sum of £2,700, leaving a balance of £1,139.8s. unpaid, and which has never been satisfied since.

On the 8th December, 1786, Joseph Wharton, for the consideration of \$2,000, conveyed in fee, all his right to the land in question, to William Cooper and Andrew Craig, then in actual possession of the same as judgment purchasers and mortgagees.

On the 12th November, 1787, Augustine Prevost and Susannah Prevost, for the consideration of \$1.250, released their right to the equity of the redemption of the mortgage on the whole 40,000 acres, to William Cooper and Andrew Craig; the said Susannah Prevost being the natural daughter and devisee of George Croghan.

On the 16th January, 1788, William Cooper paid for quit rents on the said land, the further sum of £631.3s.

On the 26th October, 1799, William Cooper paid \$7.35 for commutation of quit rents, on the village plot, containing then 112 acres of land.

The patent of 1769, signed Clarke; the deeds from the ninety-nine other patentees to George Croghan; the bond of Croghan to Franklin; that of Franklin to the Burlington company; the mortgage of Croghan to Franklin, with the assignment by latter to the unpaid members of the company; all the mesne conveyances of the same to William Cooper and Andrew Craig; the deeds of Croghan to Joseph Wharton, and the deed of Wharton to William Cooper and Andrew Craig; the release of Augustine and Susannah Prevost, and the certificates of payments of quit rents, together with several conveyances from Andrew Craig to William Cooper, exist still, among the papers of the Cooper family.

The deed of the Sheriff of Montgomery county to William Cooper and Andrew Craig has been lost; supposed never to have been returned from the county Clerk's office; but it is recorded at Johnstown, and an exemplified copy exists among the other papers.

There exists, among the same papers, a copy of a bill in chancery, of the date of 1786, at the complaint of William Cooper and Andrew Craig, setting forth that the parties to the agreement of 1775, refused to release to them according to the understood terms of that agreement, and that the said agreement was withheld from them to their injury, and praying relief in the premises. It is supposed that this suit was arranged by compromise, as the original agreement is now among the same papers.

A copy of the assignment of the mortgage on the entire tract, under the Indian grant, also, is to be found among the same papers.

As it may be a matter of curious history hereafter, we subjoin an ac-

count of what the 29,350 acres actually cost the proprietor under whom the country was settled :

Amount of judgment, Jan. 14, 1786,.....	£3,839.08
Quit rent, Jan. 16, 1788,.....	631.03
Consideration money paid Joseph Wharton,.....	800.90
do. do. Augustine and Susannah Prevost,.....	500.00
	<hr/>
	£5,770.11
	or \$14,426.37 ¼

This sum, with the Sheriff's fees and other incidental expenses, would make the actual cost of the property about 50 cents the acre. Col. Croghan and his family received for the same, as follows :

Debt to Franklin,.....	£3,839.08
Debt to Joseph Wharton,.....	9,553.00
Paid his daughter,.....	500.00
	<hr/>
Pennsylvania currency,.....	£13,892.08

This is considerably more than \$35,000. If the mortgage to Thomas Wharton be included, and it is believed the debt is unpaid to this day, it will amount to more than \$40,000, without interest, which is probably five times as much as the property was worth on the day of George Croghan's death.

CHAPTER II.

FROM 1780 TO 1799.

In addition to the abortive attempt at a settlement by Mr. Hartwick, on the present site of the village, between the year 1761 and 1770, Col. Croghan, with his family, resided for a short time on this spot. Appended to one of the deeds of George Croghan to Joseph Wharton, is a map purporting to show the improvements of the latter, at the foot of lake Otsego, but it is supposed that this map was made for effect, as all accounts agree in stating that in 1785, the improvements were very insignificant, consisting of the remains of a few log fences, a clearing away of underbrush, with felled and girdled trees. The block-house mentioned was the only building standing, and the place had been abandoned for years.

Mr Cooper commenced the settlement of his tract in the winter of 1786, many families coming in before the snow had melted. Deeds were given to Israel Guild and several others, who established themselves on spots that are now within the limits of the village, in the summer of that year. This was as farmers, however, rather than as villagers, it being the intention of Mr. Cooper, the proprietor who had the entire control of the property, and who so soon purchased the right of his associate that the connection of the latter with the place never was of any moment, to lay out the village plot in a line extending north and south, instead of in the direction it has actually taken.

In June, 1786, John Miller, now the oldest living inhabitant of the village, as regards residence, arrived at this place, accompanied by his father. They reached the banks of the river at the outlet, where Mr. Miller felled a large pine across the stream to answer the purposes of a bridge. The stump of this tree is still to be seen, within the grounds of Lakelands, and it is marked, in white paint, with the words Bridge tree. At that time most of the dam of Clinton was still remaining.

When Mr. Miller arrived, a widow of the name of Johnson, had the only resident family in the place. She lived in a log house, not far from the present stone dwelling of Mr. Pomeroy, though she was then building a frame house near the same spot. This frame building was sold by Mrs Johnson to William Ellison, the well known surveyor, who removed it the same summer, to a position near the outlet, and on what are now the grounds of Edgewater. This was unquestionably the first framed and otherwise regularly constructed house in the village of Cooperstown, as the block-house was the first in logs. It was of respectable size, and of two stories, being intended for a tavern, to

which purpose it was applied as soon as habitable. William Abbott arrived in the summer of 1786, and established himself on the farm that still bears his name, about half a mile south of the village. Other persons came and went, and many settlers remained permanently in different parts of the patent. Mr. Cooper was here, once or twice, in the course of the season, but he did not cause any building to be constructed. Mr. Miller remained, himself, but a short time. Many persons were here during the summer of 1786, among others James White, but it is believed none passed the winter within the village plot, but the families of William Ellison, Israel Guild and Mrs. Johnson. The latter soon after removed, leaving no descendants in the place. Mr. Guild took possession of the block-house.

In the spring of 1787, more emigrants appeared. Early in the season Mr. Cooper arrived, accompanied by his wife, who came however as a mere traveler. They reached the head of the lake in a chaise, and descended to the foot in a canoe. Mrs. Cooper was so much alarmed with this passage that she disliked returning in a boat, and the chaise was brought to the place, in two canoes. In order that it might reach the eastern bank, and to serve the public generally, a bridge was built at the outlet, which was the first real bridge across the Susquehanna at this spot. This bridge was composed of log abutments, sleepers, and logs laid across the latter. A road had been cut through the forest, following the direction of the lake, and coming out along the bank of Lakelands, at this bridge. It was, however, so rude and difficult to pass, that when the chaise left the village, men accompanied it with ropes, to prevent it from upsetting.

During the summer of 1787, many more emigrants arrived, principally from Connecticut, and most of the land on the patent was taken up. Until this season negotiations were going on among the different creditors of Col. Croghan to redeem this property by paying the claims of Messrs. Cooper and Craig, and taking assignments of the bonds and mortgages; those gentlemen, though legally in possession of the estate, preferring to receive the amount of their debt to keeping the securities. Being persuaded, however, that the land was scarcely worth the money, the creditors, by this time, had abandoned the intention, and Mr. Cooper, towards the close of 1787, began seriously to think of establishing himself permanently in this part of the country. With this view he commenced extending his possessions in the adjacent patents, and either by arrangements with the different great landholders, or by actual purchases, he soon had the settlement of a large part of the present county more or less subject to his control. The effects were very visible, for there is scarcely an instance of a more rapid growth of a district, in any other part of a country so remarkable for advance-

ment of this nature. When it is remembered that this extraordinary success was obtained in a region so difficult of access, one that is not easily tilled, and which has a severe climate, the energy and abilities that were employed, may be properly appreciate. The proprietor, however, was much favored by the salubrity of the air, the diseases usual to new countries having been scarcely known in this mountainous region.

During the summer of 1787, several small log tenements were constructed on the site of the village, and arrangements were made by Mr. Cooper to erect a building for his own use, the succeeding season. Still there was no great accession to the permanent population, which at this time did not amount to twenty souls. The circumstance that neither Mr. Ellison nor Mr. Guild had children, and that Mr. Miller was not yet married, contributed to lessen the number of the inhabitants.

Early in 1788, the house of Mr. Cooper was erected, it being the second regular dwelling in the place. This house stood on Second street, facing Fair street, commanding a full view of the lake, and of course immediately in front of the present Hall. It was of two stories, with two wings, and a back building was added in 1791. The siding was of wide boards, beaded, but not planed. A very good representation of this house is to be seen on the original map of this village, where it is marked Manor House. It was removed a short distance down the street in 1799, and was destroyed by fire in 1812.

In this year Mr. Cooper seems seriously to have set about the formation of a village, a plot being regularly laid out for that purpose. Agreeably to this plan, six streets were laid out in an east and west direction, and three that crossed them at right angles, in a north and south. The street along the margin of the lake was called Front street, and the others parallel to it were numbered from Second up to Sixth street. That next to the river was called Water street, and that at the opposite side of the plot, West street. The street between them, being divided into two parts by the grounds of Mr. Cooper, had two names, viz: Fair street and Main street. All these names are preserved, though Fifth street has never been opened, and one-half of Fourth street, and about one-third of Main street, are also enclosed.

The map, which is well made on parchment, like all similar documents of that period, has its base line on the west side of Water street, with its direction marked "North, 20° East." The map is dated "*9th Month 26th, 1788,*" or "*September 26th, 1788,*" and was made by William Ellison. It is now among the Cooper papers.

By a certificate of the redemption of the quit rents on "the town

plat of Cooperstown," dated October 26, 1799, among the same papers, it would appear that the plat of the village as designed on this map, contains one hundred and twelve acres.

In the autumn of this year, Israel Guild erected a small frame building of a story and a half, on what is now Second street, about one hundred feet from the intersection with West street. Mr. Guild had purchased the farm that here adjoined the village plat; all the land west of that point being without the proprietor's plan for the town. This house was originally in a lot: it is still standing, being used as a bakery and a hatter's shop, and it unquestionably is now the oldest house in the place, the Manor House having been destroyed by fire, as mentioned, and that of Mr. Ellison having been pulled down when the late Mr. Isaac Cooper built at Edgewater, or in 1812. Mr. Guild, however, continued to live in the block-house until 1789. John Howard, tanner, came this year and prepared to commence his business, at the spot long known as the Tannery.

Although the settlement of Cooper's patent commenced early in 1786, the regular commencement of the village dates properly from 1788, for while the idea of a town is older, it was not systematically planned until this summer. It follows that this year (1838,) completes the first half century of the existence of the place. The name of Cooperstown, it is true, appears in one or two papers as early even as 1786; but the place was indiscriminately known by this appellation, and that of the Foot of the Lake, until the year 1791, when it became the county town.

In 1789, Mr. Cooper finished his house and set up a frontier establishment. His eldest son, the late Richard Fenimore Cooper, Mr. Charles Francis of Philadelphia, Mr. Richard R. Smith of New Jersey, and several other gentlemen, were his occasional associates. The late Hendrik Frey of Canajoharie, was a frequent visitor, and the traditions of the festivities of the Manor House, during that and the succeeding years, are still agreeable to the lovers of good cheer.

The lake abounded with the most delicious fish, and Shipman, the Leatherstocking of the region, could at almost any time, furnish the table with a saddle of venison. Among the laughable incidents that accompanied the free manner of the living, so peculiar to a border life, the following stories seem to be well authenticated.

In the course of the winter of 1789-90, during one of the periodical visits of Col. Frey, a large lumber sleigh was fitted out, with four horses, and the whole party sallied upon the lake for a morning drive. An ex-officer of the French army, a Monsieur Ebbal, resided by himself on the western bank of the lake. Perceiving the sleigh and four approaching his house, this gentleman, with the courtesy of his

nation, went forth upon the ice to greet the party, of whose character he was not ignorant, by the style in which it appeared. Mr. Cooper invited his French friend to join him, promising him plenty of game, with copious libations of Madeira, by way of inducement. Though a good table companion in general, no persuasion could prevail on the Frenchman to accept the offer that day, until provoked by his obstinacy, the party laid violent hands on him and brought him to the village by force. Monsieur Ebbal took his captivity in good part, and was soon as buoyant and gay as any of his companions. He habitually wore a long skirted surtout, which at that time was almost a mark of a Frenchman, and this surtout he pertinaciously refused to lay aside, even when he took his seat at table. On the contrary, he kept it buttoned to the very throat, as it might be in defiance. The Christmas joke, a plentiful board, and heavy potations, however, threw the guest off his guard. Warmed with the wine and the blazing fire, he incautiously unbuttoned; when his delighted companions discovered, that the accidents of a frontier, the establishment of a bachelor who kept no servant, and certain irregularities in washing days, that were attendant on both circumstances, coupled with his *empressement* to salute his friends had induced the gallant Frenchman to come abroad without a shirt. He was uncased on the spot, amid the roars of the *convives*, and incontinently put into linen. "Cooper was so polite," added the mirth-loving Hendrik Frey, when he repeated this story for the hundredth time, "that he supplied a shirt with ruffles at the wristbands, which made Ebbal very happy for the rest of the night. Mein Gott, how his hands did go, after he got the ruffles!"

These wags told Monsieur Ebbal, that if chased by a bear, the most certain mode of escape, was to throw away his hat, or his coat, to induce the animal to stop and smell at it, and then to profit by the occasion, and climb a sapling that was too small to enable his enemy to fasten its claws in it, in the way it is known to ascend a tree. The advice was well enough, but the advised having actually an occasion to follow it the succeeding autumn, scrambled up a sapling first, and began to throw away his clothes afterwards. The bear, a she one with cubs, tore to pieces garment after garment, without quitting the spot, keeping poor Ebbal treed, throughout a cool autumnal night, almost as naked as he was when uncased at the celebrated Christmas banquet. It appears that the real name of this person was *L'Abbe de Ruffcourt*.

During the winter of 1789-90, Mr. Cooper had a stock of goods brought into the village, Mr. R. R. Smith doing the duty of the merchant. This was the first store established in the place, and of great

service to the settlers. Up to this period, the latter had been compelled to go to Canajoharie to make their purchases. Even later, they were obliged to go that distance to find a mill, not unfrequently carrying their grists on their shoulders. The distance, it will be remembered, is twenty-five miles.

October the 10th, 1790, Mr. Cooper first brought his family to Cooperstown, giving up his residence in New Jersey entirely. From this time, dates the steady and progressive growth of the village. There exists a document to show that in 1790, Cooperstown contained seven framed houses, three framed barns, and thirty-five inhabitants. It is supposed that this enumeration of the inhabitants was made previously to the arrival of the family of Mr. Cooper, as that family alone, with its inmates and domestics, amounted to about fifteen persons. It is also supposed, that the houses, three or four in number, that stood without the old village plat, like that of Mr. Guild, the Tannery, &c., were not included. The house standing at the southeast corner of Second and Water streets, and which for the last forty years has belonged to the Ernst family, was erected this summer by Mr. Benjamin Griffin. It is now the second oldest house in the village.

February 16th, 1791, the county of Otsego was formed, and Cooperstown was designated as the county town, Mr. Cooper being appointed the first Judge of the county court. A Court House was built at the southeast corner of West and Second streets. It was thirty feet square; the lower story, which contained four rooms, being used as a jail, and the whole of the upper story, as a court room. The lower story was built of squared logs, and the upper of framed work. The entrance to the court room was on the north front, two flights of steps on the exterior of the building, meeting at a platform before a door that opened into the air.

The jury rooms were in a tavern occupied by the jailer, that stood on the same lot, and which was erected the same year. The first sheriff was Richard R. Smith, who being altogether superior to entering into the lower duties of the office, appointed — Stephens, jailer.

During this summer, the Red Lion tavern, which projected half way across Second street, was erected, as was also the house at the corner diagonally opposite, now owned by Judge Russell. The two houses that stand third and fourth from the corner of West street, on the south side of Second street, were also erected this year, as were several others. The first lawyer who came to reside in the village, was Mr. Abraham Ten Broeck of New Jersey, and the second was Mr. Jacob G. Fonda of Schenectady; both these gentlemen came in 1791.

Mr. Joseph Strong, a native of Orange county, came a year or two later, and also Mr. Moss Kent, a brother of the celebrated Chancellor Kent. These four gentlemen were the first of their profession in Cooperstown. They all removed within the first twelve years of their residence, though descendants of Mr. Strong, in the second and third generation, are still inhabitants of the place. Several stores were also set up in 1791, of which the principal was owned by Mr. Peter Ten Broeck.

The first physician also appeared in the spring of this year; his name being Powers. Doctor Fuller, so long and so favorably known, for a professional career that lasted forty-six years in the same place, arrived in June. In the course of the year, Dr. Powers was accused of mixing tartar emetic with the beverage of a ball given at the Red Lion. He was tried, convicted, put in the stocks and banished for the offence; this sentence, as a matter of course, terminated his career in this spot. A Dr. Farnsworth came a year or two later, and Dr. Gott about the same time; but for many years, nearly all the practice of the country was in the hands of Dr. Fuller, who is said to have been the medical attendant of more than two thousand births.

There exists no positive information of the increase of the village during the year 1791, but it was relatively great, for the times. At the end of the year, Cooperstown certainly contained twenty houses and stores, and probably a hundred inhabitants. As most of the emigrants were young, their families were necessarily small, which accounts for the feeble number of the population. From this period, or for the last forty-six years, the place has been more gradual in its growth, the increase being steady and regular, and not subject to the sudden changes of more speculative neighborhoods.

The first child born actually in the village was Nathan Howard, a son of John Howard; and the first death was that of a son of Mr. Joseph Griffin, which took place October 11th, 1792. On the occasion of this death, a piece of ground was selected as a place of interment, near the junction of Water and Third streets, or where Christ Church now stands.

The first child born on the patent was a son of Bill Jarvis of Fly Creek. He was born in 1787, and was named after the proprietor, receiving fifty acres of land as a memorial of the circumstance.

William Abbott had a son born previously to the birth of Nathan Howard, but he did not reside immediately in the village, although forming a part of the village community. The boy was called Reuben, from the circumstance of his being the first born.

The first school was kept by Joshua Dewey, but it was not commenced until a year or two later.

CHAPTER III.

FROM 1792 TO 1797.

The village at the commencement of the year 1792, stood principally on Second street, with a house or two on Water street, one or two more on Front street, and a few on West street. The shops and taverns were collected in the vicinity of the four principal corners, where were also the Court House and Jail. It is evident to the geologist that water has once flowed over the site of the place, and originally many deep holes or hollows existed, which had the appearance of having been formed by powerful eddies or currents. Most of these holes have disappeared, by leveling and filling up, but a few are still to be seen, especially in the grounds of the Hall, where they have been preserved as helping the ornamental walks, &c., &c.

Some of these inequalities, of course, existed in the streets, and many persons still remember the place when there were considerable ascents and descents in them. Opposite to the present bank there was, as recently as the commencement of this century, a little rise in the road, and in West street, at the point near that where the present inclination commences, was a short, sharp pitch, down which vehicles had to descend with great care. Judge Cooper's barns, stables, &c., down to the year 1798 certainly, if not to a later day, were in the rear of the stone store that now belongs to Mr. J. R. Worthington, and they stood many feet below the level of the streets. Nor did the stumps disappear altogether from even Second street, which is the principal avenue of the village, until the close of the century. The road to Fly Creek diverged from the Hartwick road, near Howard's farm, and the narrow part of Second street continued enclosed as part of the farm of Mr. Guild, until about the year 1795.

Mr. James Averell was an early settler on the patent, having occupied the farm since known as the Howard farm, in 1787, but he exchanged with Mr. Howard this farm against the Tannery, and removed into the village, or rather into what is now the village, in the year 1792. Here, by his enterprise and industry, he raised the works in question into some of the most important of the sort that then existed in the newer part of the State. Mr. Averell soon became conspicuous for his habits of business, and subsequently was much connected with the increase of Cooperstown and its vicinity, in wealth and industry.

Between the years 1792 and 1797, Messrs. Wade, Stevens, Rensselaer Williams, Richard Williams, Norman Landon, Peter Ten Broeck and Le Quoy arrived and established themselves as merchants; Mr.

R. R. Smith relinquishing business, and going to Philadelphia, where he was soon a partner in an extensive wholesale house.

Mr. Wade was an Irishman by birth, and had served as a captain in the British army. He remained but a year or two, when he returned to New York. The present Major Wade of the United States army is his son. Mr. Stevens returned to Philadelphia also, in a few years; but the Messrs. Williams continued their connection with the place, down to the periods of their deaths; their collateral descendants and heirs still existing in Cooperstown. The Messrs. Ten Broeck returned to New Jersey, at the end of a few years. Mr. Landon died, and is interred in the old burying ground.

Mr. Le Quoy excited a good deal of interest during his stay in the place, as he was a man altogether superior to his occupation, which was little more than that of a country grocer; an interest that was much increased by the following circumstance.

Among the early settlers in Otsego county, was Mr. Lewis de Villers, a French gentleman of respectable extraction and good manners. Mr. de Villers was in Cooperstown about the year 1793, at a moment when a countryman, a Mr. Renouard, who afterwards established himself in the county, had recently reached the place. Mr. Renouard was a seaman and had the habit of using tobacco. Enquiring of Mr. de Villers where some of his favorite article might be purchased, Mr. de Villers directed him to the shop of Mr. Le Quoy, telling him he would help a countryman by making his purchase of that person. In a few minutes Mr. Renouard returned from the shop, much agitated and very pale. Mr. de Villers inquired if he were unwell. "In the name of God, Mr. de Villers who is the man who sold me this tobacco?" demanded Mr. Renouard. "Mr. Le Quoy, a countryman of ours" "Yes, Mr. Le Quoy de Mersereau." "I know nothing about the *de Mersereau*, he calls himself Mr. Le Quoy. Do you know anything of him?" "When I went to Martinique to be port captain of St. Pierre," answered Mr. Renouard, "this man was the civil governor of the island, and refused to confirm my appointment."

Subsequent inquiry confirmed this story, Mr. Le Quoy explaining that the influence of a lady had stood in the way of Mr. Renouard's preferment.

The history of Mr. Le Quoy has since been ascertained to be as follows: When governor of Martinique he had it in his power to do a friendly office to Mr. John Murray of New York, by liberating one of his ships, Mr. Murray being at the head of the old and highly respectable commercial house of John Murray & Sons, then one of the principal firms of the country. This act brought about an exchange of civilities between Mr. Murray and Mr. Le Quoy, which continued for a few

years. When the French revolution drove Mr. Le Quoy from the island, he repaired to New York, and sought his friend Mr. Murray, to whom he stated that he had a small sum of money, which he wished to invest in a country store, until his fortunes might revive. Between Judge Cooper and Mr. Murray there existed an intimacy, and the latter referred Mr. Le Quoy to the former. Under the advice of Judge Cooper, Mr. Le Quoy established himself in Cooperstown, where he remained more than a year. At the end of that time he made his peace with the new French government, and quitting his retreat, he was employed for some months in superintending the accounts of the different French consulates in this country. It is said that he soon after returned to Martinique in his old capacity, and died the first season of yellow fever. When Mr. Fenimore Cooper was in France, the Comte d'Hauterive, who had been French consul general in America, at the period of Mr. Le Quoy's residence, spoke of the latter gentleman, and in part, corroborated this history of him. The following letter appears to have been written soon after he left Cooperstown, and at the moment he commenced his consular duties :

PHILADELPHIA, 10th Oct., 1794.

DEAR SIR—I have experienced too much of your friendship to believe you will not hear of my fate with some degree of concern. I am to go to Charleston in S. C., about some business which will keep me most all the winter. I hope for a more permanent employment than what I have at present ; if not, I know where to find peace, good business, good friends. I shall always consider you among the number.

I wish you and all your family health and happiness, and I remain,
dear sir, your most humble servant

F. Z. LE QUOY.

MONS. W. COOPER, in Cooperstown, Otsego county.

Later letters show that Mr. Le Quoy did not quit this country until 1796.

January 27th, 1795, Mr. James Barber, tailor, died of the small pox. This was the first adult who died a natural death in the village. He lived in the large old building which stands north of the dwelling of Mr. Lawrence McNamee, and which was erected the year before. But, Mr. Jabez Wight, cabinet maker, was drowned while bathing, near the outlet, August 14th, 1794. This was the second death, in the place. The same year a child of Mr. Averell's was drowned, but not in the lake. All these persons were interred in Christ church burying ground, where their head-stones are still to be seen.

During the first ten years of the existence of the village, the people depended entirely on chance for the little religious instruction they received. The emigrants to the place, more particularly those who

had any property, were singularly divided as to religious faith, the Presbyterians, though the most numerous sect, being the poorest. Missionaries occasionally penetrated to this spot, and now and then a traveling Baptist, or a Methodist, preached, in a tavern, a school house, or a barn. The first regular clergyman, who had any engagement to officiate in Cooperstown, was the Rev. Mr. Mosely, who was employed for six months. This was in the year 1795. He was a Presbyterian, and went away at the expiration of his engagement.

In the way of schools, the village did a little better. It has been said that Joshua Dewey kept the first school. He was soon succeeded by Oliver Cory, who conducted the common school of the place, with commendable assiduity and great credit to himself, for many years. Nearly all the permanent inhabitants of the village, who are between the ages of forty and fifty-five, received their elementary instruction from this respectable teacher. Mr. Cory did not neglect religious instruction altogether, but every Saturday was devoted to this object. His care in this respect, as well as his lessons on deportment, were attended with the most beneficial results, and it is to be regretted that they have not been imitated in our own time. He kept his school originally in the Court House, and then in the first regular school house ever built in the place. This school house was a small wooden building that stood on the lot that is now occupied by the dwelling of Mr. Elihu Phinney. Subsequently Mr. Cory held his school in the Academy.

Notwithstanding the apparent neglect on the subject of religion, which, in all probability, is to be referred more to the division in sentiment mentioned, than to any other cause, the people of Cooperstown showed great public spirit on the subject of establishing an Academy, a plan for which was started as early as 1795. We subjoin the following copy of a subscription paper for that purpose, in proof of what we say, and which is still in existence, viz :

“We the subscribers do severally undertake to contribute the sums opposite to our respective names, towards an academy in Cooperstown, for the county of Otsego. April 5th, 1795.

William Cooper,	- - -	\$725.00	James Averell,	- - -	\$50.90
William Abbot,	- - -	40.00	Francis Henry,	- - -	5.00
Huntington & Ingals,	- - -	25.00	Jabez Hubbell,	- - -	5.00
Elisha Fullam,	- - -	7.50	Norman Landon,	- - -	45.00
Jonas Perry,	- - -	2.50	Timothy Sabin,	- - -	3.75
Lemuel Jewel,	- - -	2.50	Barnet Whipple,	- - -	5.00
Thomas Fuller,	- - -	40.00	Bill Jarvis,	- - -	2.50
Samuel Tubbs,	- - -	12.50	Moses Kent,	- - -	25.00
Uriah Luce,	- - -	10.00	Peter Lambert,	- - -	7.50

Joseph Holt,	- - -	10.00	Nathaniel Gott,	- - -	12.50
John Miller,	- - -	7.50	William Ellison,	- - -	12.50
James White,	- - -	15.00	Stephen Ingals,	- - -	5.00
James Gardner,	- - -	10.00	Abner Dunham,	- - -	6.25
Nathan Davison,	- - -	5.00	E. Phinney,	- - -	40.00
Joseph Griffin	- - -	42.50	Lewis De Villers,	- - -	15.00
John Howard,	- - -	30.00	Robert Riddle,	- - -	7.50
William Cook,	- - -	25.00	Aaron Noble,	- - -	7.50
Benjamin Griffin,	- - -	25.00	Matthew Bennet,	- - -	7.50
Jacob Morris,	- - -	62.50	Isaac Stacy,	- - -	10.00
Benjamin Gilbert,	- - -	30.00	Joseph N. Jones,	- - -	5.00
Griffin Crafts,	- - -	30.00	Levi Wentworth,	- - -	6.25
Total		- - -			\$1,441.25

The odd cents are from the subscriptions having been in the old currency. This document shows several interesting facts. There are forty-two names, which makes an average subscription of more than \$33 to each name; and it may be doubted if any thing like such an average could now be obtained for any public object whatever. Of these forty-two names, twenty-three were then residents of the village, and considering the public spirit that prevailed, it is fair to suppose that this comprised at least two-thirds of the heads of families that were then to be found in the place. It will probably be safe to say, that Cooperstown contained in 1795, about thirty-five families, and quite as many houses. As the heads of families were generally young, an average of five persons to each family would be sufficiently high; this would give a whole number of one hundred and seventy-five souls. If to these we add twenty-five for single persons, we get a total of two hundred for the population, which could not be far from the truth.

The Academy was raised September 18th, 1795. It was one of those tasteless buildings that afflict all new countries, and contained two school rooms below, a passage and the stairs; while the upper story was in a single room. Nothing superior to a common English education was ever taught in this house, all attempts at classical instruction failing. This must be ascribed to the general want of means in the population, at the time; the few who gave their children classical educations, usually sending them abroad for that purpose.

The Academy, containing at that time the largest room in the place, was as much used for other purposes as for those of education. Religious meetings were generally held there, as well as other large assemblages of the people. The school exhibitions of Mr. Cory, in which Brutus and Cassius figured in hats of the cuts of 1776, blue coats faced with red, of no cut at all, and matross swords, are still the subject of mirth with those who remember the prodigies. The court on great occasions

was sometimes held in this building, and even balls were occasionally given in it ; in short, it was a jack of all work, rather than of the particular work for which it was intended.

Notwithstanding the failure as respects a classical school, the year was memorable for the establishment of another species of instruction, that probably was more useful to this particular community, at that early day. On the 28th of February, 1795, Mr. Elihu Phinney, a native of Connecticut, arrived in Cooperstown bringing with him the materials for printing a newspaper ; and on the 3d day of April of the same year, the first number of the *Otsego Herald, or Western Advertiser*, a weekly paper, made its appearance. This was the second journal published in the State, west of Albany. We see by its title that, in 1795, it was considered a western print, whereas at the present day, Cooperstown is probably a hundred leagues east of the central point around which journals are now to be found.

By means of this print we are enabled to make the following curious statistical statement, by which the reader will obtain an insight into the actual condition of the western part of this State at that time. In 1794, Judge Cooper was elected Representative in Congress, from a district composed of the counties of Montgomery, Herkimer, Tioga, Ontario, Onondaga and Otsego, as they then existed. His opponent was Mr. Winn of Montgomery, and the following is the result of the canvass :

	COOPER.	WINN.
Montgomery,.....	304	970
Herkimer,.....	746	144
Tioga,.....	89	88
Ontario,.....	30	2
Onondaga,.....	95	6
Otsego,.....	1271	216
Total, ...	<u>2535</u>	<u>1426</u>

Here we see that the county of Ontario, at that time comprising so much of the State, gave but 32 votes, while Otsego gave 1487. The fact shows the great rapidity with which the latter county had been settled.

A brewery was established in 1794, by two Englishmen, of the names of Mulcock and Morgan, but it was in advance of the country, and after a short experiment it failed.

July 9th, 1795, a man named Porteus was flogged at the whipping post, for stealing some pieces of ribbon. This was the first of two instances of the same punishment on the same spot. The whipping post and stocks stood nearly opposite the jail door, in West street, but on the west side of the street. Porteus was *banished*, as well as flogged,

the former punishment being used in Cooperstown. It is to be regretted that it has fallen into disuse.

By an article in the *Otsego Herald* of October 30th, it would seem that the year 1795 added much to the size of the place, no less than thirty buildings having been constructed that season. Many of these, however, were shops, offices and stores. Among others were the Brewery and Academy, already mentioned. The former stood near the present bridge, and is described as having been 83 feet in length, 25 feet wide, and 19 feet posts. The Academy was 65½ feet long, 32 wide, and 25 feet posts. The summit of the belfry was 70 feet from the ground.

On the evening of the 20th November, 1795, a building attached to the pottery of Mr. Joshua Starr, a respectable inhabitant of the village, was destroyed by fire. This is believed to be the first accident of the sort that ever occurred in Cooperstown.

The mills that still exist on the Susquehanna, were erected by Mr. William Ellison, as early as 1792.

It appears that the Rev. Elisha Mosely preached the first thanksgiving sermon in Cooperstown, on the 26th November, 1795, in the Court House. By the latter circumstance it would seem that the Academy, which indeed was only raised on the 18th September, had not been completed. It is also stated in the *Otsego Herald*, that in this year the village paid in excise, and through the inns and stores, &c., and by the duty on carriages, thirty-six pounds. The first carriage that was ever used in the place, was a phaeton of Judge Cooper's. This was in 1792. In 1795, he set up a chariot, which by the aid of four horses, was enabled to perform a journey from Cooperstown to Cherry Valley, between breakfast and supper.

The first road to communicate with the lower country, was that mentioned already as running along the eastern margin of the lake. Its course did not differ essentially from that of the present turnpike. A rude road existed previously to the revolution, from Cherry Valley, as far as the Ingals farm in Middlefield, and this road was brought round the end of the Vision and into the village, about the year 1791. It followed the present margin of the forest, on the side of the mountain, until it reached the spot where Woodside now stands, when it traversed the present grounds of Lakelands, diagonally, to the outlet. This end of the road was three times altered; first, by bringing it down to the river a little below the mills; secondly, by leading it more diagonally across the fields, and lastly, to its present route.

A State road was laid out between Albany and Cooperstown, in 1794. This road crossed the mountain, and descended the Vision by

the line that is still used as a foot-path. A bridge was then first constructed, where the present bridge now stands.

In 1802, the second company of the Great Western turnpike brought the present turnpike road through the village. The labors of this company sensibly improved the surface of Second street, and may be set down as the commencement of the present handsome appearance of the principal streets. The lake turnpike was constructed in 1825. The State road was continued west by the people, in 1796, nearly on the line of the present turnpike, some aid being obtained from the State. The Hartwick and Pier's roads have been but little altered since 1786, though both have been straightened near the village.

In 1795, the township of Otsego, then much larger than at present, however, contained 2160 males above the age of 16, a prodigious increase for ten years. It had 491 electors under the laws of that period, viz : 368 £100 freeholders ; 55 £20 freeholders ; and 60 persons renting tenements at £2. It is said that in 1738, all the electors in the State west of Albany, the latter included, excepting, however, the manor of Rensselaer, were but 636. In 1795, the number in the same counties was 36,026. It probably now exceeds 200,000.

It is mentioned that lake Otsego was free from ice on the 1st of January, 1796. It did not close the present year (1838) until the 23d January. March, 1796, was memorable for the flocks of pigeons that flew through this valley ; elderly persons declaring that they saw more on a single morning than they had previously seen in all their lives.

At the close of the year 1796, Judge Cooper made his contracts for the construction of the Hall. This, it is believed, was the first building in the county, and, with the exception of the German settlements, almost the first private building in the State, west of Schenectady, that was not built of wood. By an instrument that is still in existence, William Sprague and Barnet Whipple contracted to do the carpenter's and joiner's work of this house, all the materials being found on the spot, for the sum of \$1,350. The work was begun in the year 1796, but it got no higher than the foundation in 1797. In 1798, the walls were raised and the house was effectually enclosed. In June, 1799, the building was completed, and the family of the proprietor removed into it. It was, however, inhabited by some of the workmen in 1798.

The grounds of the old building, which was called the Manor House, and those of the Hall, were not identical. The former extended back no farther than to the site of the present building, whereas the latter, as is known, reached to Third street. At this

time and for some years later, many pines were still standing in the fields south of Third street, and most of the spots that had been cleared were covered with a young second growth. Otsego Hall was, for many years, the largest private residence in the newer parts of the State, and it is still much the most considerable structure in Cooperstown, a village that is so singularly well built. Some idea of the strength with which it was constructed may be gained from the fact, that in 1834, when the present owner commenced his repairs and improvements, the floor above the great hall, which is near twenty-five feet by fifty in surface, was raised three feet, one corner at a time, without injury even to the ceiling below. The joists were of oak, the planks of the best quality, and the fastenings of wrought iron spikes. The house was struck by lightning in 1802, on which occasion the first lightning rod in Cooperstown was erected.

The Free Masons opened a lodge in the village on the first Tuesday in March, 1796, and on the 27th December, they held a great religious festival in the Academy. They dined in the same place, and in the evening they had a ball.

The first library was opened in this village, March 11th, 1796, Capt. Timothy Barnes, librarian.

The year 1794 was memorable in the history of Cooperstown, for what is still called the Indian alarm. This alarm was false, having proceeded from the combined circumstances that a report prevailed of a considerable body of Indians having been seen lurking in the woods at no great distance, and that a party who had brought in some counterfeiters discharged their pistols at midnight. Scouts had been previously sent to ascertain the fact about the Indians, and this discharge of pistols was supposed to proceed from these scouts, in the wish to alarm the village. Many ludicrous accounts are given of the effect of the fright, one man in particular, secreting himself in a log abutment of the bridge that had then been recently constructed at the spot where the present bridge now stands. We learn in the fact, the infant condition of the country, as it was then possible to create an alarm on account of the Indians.

Up to this period the lake was full of fish, and hauls of hundreds of the delicious bass were made at a time, during the proper season. The trout also abounded, as did deer. The fisherman of the day was known as Admiral Hearsey, pronounced Hassy, a man who was unhappy unless in a boat or before a lime kiln. He was, perhaps, more thoroughly aquatic than his successor, the Commodore, who has now commanded the lake more than thirty years, but on the whole, less skillful. At that time pickerel, now so abundant, were seldom caught at all.

In 1794, there was a large flat boat on the lake, called the ship Jay, on board of which Admiral Hassy first hoisted his flag. His sails were boards, and his speed more than doubtful.

The old road along the east bank of the lake was abandoned about this time ; those who went to Springfield going by the way of Pier's ; and those who went to Albany, or to the Mohawk, by the way of Cherry Valley.

A journey taken by Judge Cooper in 1795, of which the memorials still exist, will give an idea of the means of communication that were then in the country. He left Cooperstown soon after breakfast, with his wife and two children, in the old-fashioned chariot already mentioned, and drawn by four horses. At Middlefield Center the party stopped, bated and dined. It reached Cherry Valley a little before sunset, where it passed the night. Left Cherry Valley next morning after an early breakfast, and stopped to dine with Mr. Christopher Yates ; thence to the house of Hendrik Frey, at Canajoharie, to supper and to sleep. Quitting Mr. Frey's after a late breakfast, or at ten o'clock, it reached an inn for the night, about ten miles from Schenectady. The next morning, making an early start, it reached Gilbert's in Schenectady, to a late breakfast, and succeeded in getting to Albany about sunset.

At this period lime-kilns and brick-kilns existed at the outlet, owing to which circumstance, and to the diggings of the different roads, the western bank has been much defaced, it having resembled the eastern a good deal, in its native state ; though a small flat always existed a little below.

In 1797, the Rev. Thomas Ellison of Albany, and the Patroon, both regents of the university, visited the Cherry Valley academy, and then extended their journey to Cooperstown, where the former preached in the Court House. This was the first time service, according to the rites of the Protestant Episcopal church, was ever performed in the place.

CHAPTER IV.

In 1799, the Rev. John Frederick Ernst, a Lutheran clergyman, settled in Cooperstown, under a temporary arrangement with the inhabitants, to perform religious service. Perhaps Mr. Ernst, who was a native of Germany, was the only person of his own persuasion in the village, and the reason of this selection was connected with a hope of getting the benefit of a bequest made for the purpose of education and religious instruction, by the late Mr. Hartwick. This hope proved fallacious, and Mr. Ernst remained but two or three years in the place, though he purchased property in it, and his descendants in the fourth generation are now to be found among us. Mr. Ernst was the second regularly employed clergyman in Cooperstown, though, owing to his peculiar sect, he can hardly be said to have had a regular church.

The first law for establishing a post route from some convenient point on the line of post route between Albany and Canandaigua, "through Cherry Valley to the Court House in Cooperstown, in the county of Otsego," was passed on the 8th May, 1794. The postoffice was first opened in the village June 1st, 1794, Joseph Griffin, postmaster. The mail arrived weekly for some years; it then came twice a week; then thrice; then daily; and several variations occurred even after this, the daily mail not having been permanently established, as at present, until about the year 1821.

In 1799, the Rev. John McDonald of the Scotch Seceders, was arrested for debt in this village, bailed, and was placed on the limits. Mr. McDonald during his imprisonment preached regularly in the Court House, though he had no call, supporting himself by instructing a few classical scholars. He went away in 1800.

The Presbyterians and Congregationalists, in and about Cooperstown, formed themselves into a legal society on the 29th of December, 1798.* The spiritual organization of this church took place on the 16th of June, 1800, Isaac Lewis, moderator of the meeting. On the 1st day of October, 1800, the Rev. Isaac Lewis was installed the pastor of the aforesaid church and congregation. He was the first regularly and permanently settled clergyman in Cooperstown, and he officiated altogether in the Academy, as Mr. Ernst had done during his stay. His connection with this church was dissolved in 1805.

*It will be found by reference to Book B, County Clerk's office, that a legally convened meeting of inhabitants of this town was held at the house of Capt. Isaac Williams, Jan. 12, 1795, at which was organized "The First Religious Society in the town of Otsego." The organization of the society mentioned by Mr. Cooper is supposed to have been the outcome of this meeting.

The Rev. William Neill was ordained and installed as the successor of Mr. Lewis in 1806. This connection was dissolved in 1809. In 1810, the Rev. John Chester was engaged for a few months to fill the pulpit of this church. On the 7th of February, 1811, the Rev. John Smith was ordained and installed as the successor of Mr. Neill. This connection continued until the year 1833. On the 26th day of November, 1834, the Rev. Alfred E. Campbell was installed as the successor of Mr. Smith. The departure of Mr. Smith, and the causes which induced it, being of a spiritual character, were connected with a separation of this congregation into two congregations, one of which held its religious worship in the Court House and in the great hall of the Hall, the latter building being at that time unoccupied by any person but a keeper. This division was healed on the occasion of the call of Mr. Campbell, who is still the pastor of the reunited congregations.

On the 10th day of September, 1800, Miss Cooper, the eldest daughter of Judge Cooper, a young lady in the 23d year of her age, was killed by a fall from a horse. Her funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Daniel Nash of the Protestant Episcopal church, and she was interred according to the rites of that church, which were now performed for the first time in this village.

(This young lady, who had been educated in the schools of New York, and who, from having accompanied her father in his official visits to the seat of government, was perhaps as extensively and favorably known in the middle states as any female of her years, was universally regretted.) She had improved her leisure by extensive reading, and was a model of the domestic virtues. During his visit to this country, M. de Talleyrand passed a few days in Cooperstown, where he was an inmate of the family of Judge Cooper. The Otsego Herald of October 2, 1795, contains the following acrostic on Miss Cooper, then in her eighteenth year, which tradition ascribes to the celebrated *diplomat*. We give it as a literary curiosity, rather than as a very faultless specimen of poetry, although it is quite respectable in the latter point of view :

Aimable philosophe au printemps de son age,
 Ni les temps, ni les lieux n'alterent son esprit;
 Ne cedant qu' a ses gouts simple et sans etalage,
 Au milieu des deserts, elle lit, pense, ecrit.
 Cultivez, belle Anna, votre gout pour l'etude;
 On ne saurait ici mieux employer son temps;
 Otsego n'est pas gai—mais, tout est habitude;
 Paris vous deplairait fort au premier moment;
 Et qui jouit de soi dans une solitude,
 Rentrant au monde, et sur d'en faire l'ornement.

Miss Cooper was killed in the public highway, about a mile from the residence of General Morris, in the town of Butternuts, where a monument has stood these thirty-seven years to commemorate the sad event. She is interred in the burying ground of her family, under a slab that, singularly enough, while it is inscribed by some feeling lines, written by her father, does not even contain her name!

Mr. Nash, since so well known in his own church, for his apostolic simplicity, under the name of Father Nash, was then a missionary in the county. From this time he began to extend his services to Cooperstown, and on the first day of January, 1811, a church was legally organized, under the title of Christ Church, Cooperstown.

This was the second regularly established congregation in the place. On the same day, the Rev. Daniel Nash was chosen rector of Christ church, which office, through the delicacy of the clergyman who succeeded him in his duties, he informally held down to the period of his death in 1836. In 1818, Mr. Frederick T. Tiffany was engaged by Christ church as a lay reader. This gentleman was admitted to deacon's orders in 1820, in St. John's church, New York, and to priest's orders in Christ church, Cooperstown, in 1828, by the Right Reverend Bishop Hobart, and his connection has continued with the church down to the present moment.

In 1822, the Rev. Dr. Orderson, a clergyman from Barbadoes, West Indies, officiated occasionally in the church for several months. Whilst here, the honorary degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by the faculty of Union college.

The Methodist persuasion has had service, from time to time, for more than forty years in the village, occasionally with regularity, and at intervals, with long intermissions. From the discipline and system of this church, it is impossible for us to give any accurate account of the different clergymen employed.

The Universalists organized their society on the 26th April, 1831, under the name of the Second Universalist Society of Otsego, another existing in the township. At this moment, this congregation possesses about eighty members. The Rev. Job Potter was the first pastor, having been installed in 1831. He was succeeded by the Rev. O. Whiston in July, 1836.

The Baptist church was organized the 21st January, 1834; Rev. Lewis Raymond who still officiates, being the first pastor. This sect has occasionally had service in the village for near forty years also, the baptisms near Otsego rock being of frequent occurrence about the commencement of the century.

The first edifice constructed for religious worship in the village of Cooperstown was erected by the Presbyterians, on the east side

of West street, between Third and Fourth streets, in 1805. It is of wood, being 64 feet long by 50 feet in width, having a tower and cupola ninety feet high. In 1835, this building was extensively altered and repaired, and it continues to be the place of worship of its congregation. This denomination purchased the house that stands on the southeast corner of Third and West streets for a parsonage, in 1838, for the sum of \$1,600.

In 1807, the Episcopalians erected a brick building 54 feet long and 41 feet wide, as their place of worship. It was consecrated by the Right Reverend Bishop Moore, on the eighth day of July, 1810.— This building stands on the west side of Water street, also between Third and Fourth streets, and in a line with the house first named. This denomination built a rectory on the southwest corner of Water and Third streets, or adjoining the churchyard, in 1832. The latter building cost about \$1,200, exclusively of the lot.

The Methodists erected a wooden building with a tower, having no spire or cupola, on the west side of Chestnut street, in 1817. It has never been painted, and the service in it is still very irregular.

In 1833, the Universalists erected a wooden building on the northeast corner of Third and West streets, with a tower and pinnacles. It is 50 feet long and 38 wide, and stands on the site of the old Academy, the latter building having been destroyed by fire on the 31st day of March, 1809. This church with the lot, cost about \$3,000.

The Baptists erected a church in 1835-6. It is 54 feet by 40, and has a dome 60 feet high. The house and lot cost about \$3,000.

These five buildings are all that have ever been erected for the purposes of public worship, in the village, and they are all now standing.

CHAPTER V.

Between the years 1795 and 1803 the growth of Cooperstown was gradual but steady. A document exists to show that in January of the latter year, the village contained seventy-five dwelling houses, thirty-four barns, and three hundred and forty-nine inhabitants. No account exists of the number of stores and shops, which probably would have raised the total of the buildings, exclusively of barns, &c., to about one hundred. The families were not yet large, as this account gives less than five souls to each dwelling house.

Apple hill was early selected by Richard Fenimore Cooper, Esquire, as the site for a house, and during the summer of 1800, he caused the present building to be erected. This was the second house in the place that was erected off the line of the streets, or which had the character of a villa.

John Miller erected a house in bricks, in the summer of 1802, also. It stands on his farm, but within the present limits of the village, and is the second building in the place that was not constructed of wood.

In 1804, Judge Cooper caused a stone dwelling to be constructed on the southwest corner of Water and Second streets, for his daughter, who was then married to Mr. George Pomeroy, a native of Massachusetts, who had become a resident of the place in the year 1801. This was the first stone building in the village.

Between the years 1795 and 1802, John Russell, Elijah H. Metcalf and Robert Campbell, Esquires, also became residents of Cooperstown, in which place they have since held conspicuous social or political stations. All three of these gentlemen married in the village, and their descendants in the second and third generations, now form a portion of its population. Judge Metcalf died in 1821, but the other two are still living. Mr. Russell was the second member of congress ever elected from the place, and Mr. Metcalf was in the legislature of the State two terms.

In 1801, a man dressed in a sailor's jacket, without stockings or neckcloth, but cleanly and otherwise of respectable appearance, and who seemed to be between forty and fifty, presented himself to Judge Cooper, with a request to know whether a small piece of low meadow land, that lies between Fenimore and the village, was to be sold. The answer was in the affirmative, but the applicant was informed that, on account of its position, the price would be relatively high, amounting to a considerable sum. The stranger requested that a

deed might immediately be made of it, and he counted down the money in gold, giving his name as Esaias Hausman. Mr. Hausman left the Hall the owner of the lot in question, which has ever since been known as the Hausman lot. The habits, attainments and character of this man soon attracted attention. He spoke five or six of the living languages, and had a tolerable knowledge of the classics. He lived entirely alone, in a small house he had caused to be built on his purchase, and in the rudest manner. Occasionally he would disappear, and his absences sometimes extended to months. He frequently spoke of his past life, though it is not known that he ever gave any connected or explicit history of his origin, or of the events that led him to America. According to his own accounts of his adventures, he had served in the imperial army, and he was once heard to say that the death of Robespierre alone saved him from the block. Casual remarks of this nature increased curiosity, when Hausman became more reserved, and he soon ceased to touch at all on the events of his past life. Sometime about the year 1805, he had been absent for several months, when it was discovered that he was teaching Hebrew to the President of one of the eastern colleges. This occupation did not last long, however, for he was soon back again in his hut on the lake shore. In this manner this singular man passed many years, apparently undetermined in his purposes, rude and even coarse in many of his habits, but always courteous and intelligent. He died in Herkimer in 1812, and without making any particular revelations concerning himself or his family. As he died intestate, his property escheated, the lot on the shore of the lake being sold by the public. It is said that a considerable sum in gold was found in a purse that he wore between his shoulder blades.

Nothing further was ever known of Esaias Hausman. He was certainly shrewd and observant, and his acquisitions, which were a little exaggerated, probably, by vulgar report, were of that kind which denotes in Europe, a respectable education. He had not the appearance or manners of a Polish gentlemen, for he called himself a Pole, and the most probable conjecture concerning him, a conjecture that we believe is sustained by some of his own remarks, made him a Jew. The name is German, but the people of that persuasion often assume new appellations.

The estate which is bounded by the Susquehanna and lake Otsego, on the west, belonged to Henry Bowers, Esquire. On the death of this gentleman, it descended to his only son, John M. Bowers, Esquire. At a very early period, the land immediately around the outlet, and of course opposite to Cooperstown, was cleared and a farm house erected. On his marriage, however, Mr. Bowers determined to reside

on his property, and to build at this spot. He came into the village in 1803, accordingly, where he resided, for a short time, and commenced the construction of the present house at Lakelands. This building was erected in 1804, and its proprietor took possession of it in 1805. Since that time it has continued to be the residence of the gentleman who caused the house to be built. This place is not within the limits of Cooperstown, or even in the township of Otsego, but standing within musket shot of the former, its inhabitants properly belong to our community.

In 1797, the Masons erected a hall on the northeast corner of Front and West streets, which is still standing.

The population of Cooperstown underwent essential changes, between the years 1800 and 1806. All the lawyers originally settled in the village, without an exception, had removed, and their places had been supplied by a new set. The same alterations also occurred among the merchants, who have frequently changed since the settlement of the country. Of the latter, Mr. Lawrence McNamee, who opened a store in the village in 1802, is the only one who has continued in the same occupation, and in the same place, down to the present time.

The only bookstore in the village, or that has ever been in the village, that of the Messrs. Phinney, has been continued since 1795, also, in the same family.

Between the years 1800 and 1810, the growth of the village, without being rapid, was regular and respectable. Many places that, a few years previously, were much inferior to it in size and wealth, now began to surpass it, but its own population gradually grew easier in their circumstances, and, as a matter of course, enlarged their manner of living. Still, the people depended chiefly on the trade of the few adjoining towns, on the presence of the county buildings, and on such of the more ordinary manufactures as found consumers in the vicinity.

On the 22d December, 1809, died William Cooper, Esquire, the original proprietor, after whom the village was named. Judge Cooper was in his fifty-sixth year at the time of his death, and his connection with the place had continued near twenty-four years. For nineteen he had been a regular inhabitant of the village. He died in Albany, and was interred in the burying ground of his family, in Christ church yard. To the enterprise, energy and capacity of this gentleman, the county of Otsego is more indebted for its rapid settlement, than to those of any other person.

A law was passed in 1806, for the erection of a new court house and jail for the county of Otsego. The commissioners appointed for that purpose selected the spot a little remote from the center of the village, on the south side of the turnpike, and west of Chestnut street.

Here a building was constructed in 1806-7. It is 56 feet long and 50 feet wide, and has been used ever since for the public service. It is of bricks, and the court room is capacious and convenient. The jail is in the lower story, and is crowded and inconvenient. The jailer has also rooms in the building.

A fire-proof County Clerk's office was constructed near the court house, in 1814.

The removal of the court house to the extreme western limits of the place, has had no sensible effect on the direction taken by the village in its growth, but a very few houses having been since erected in that quarter of the town. The old court house, jail and tavern, on the east corner of Second and West streets, were torn down in 1810, and a range of brick stores was erected on the lot in 1811.

In the year 1803, a market house was erected in the center of Fair street, about half way between Front and Second streets. The attempt to induce the butchers and the people of the surrounding country to use it, however, failed, and the building was removed into West street, and converted into a school house, in 1809, or soon after the destruction of the Academy by fire.

On the 3d day of April, 1807, a law was passed authorizing the inhabitants of the village of Cooperstown, to elect trustees, under an act of incorporation, which styled the place The Village of Otsego. This change of name arose from party politics, and the majority of the inhabitants of the village being opposed to the measure, elected trustees, who rendered the law a dead letter, by declining to do any thing under its provisions.

June 12th, 1812, a new act was passed, incorporating the place, by the name of The Village of Cooperstown, under which law, the people proceeded immediately to organize the local government. By the act of incorporation, as since amended, the people elect annually five trustees, who choose their own president. The people also elect a clerk and treasurer, three assessors, a pathmaster, and constable. The board of trustees possesses powers to pass by-laws for the security of the village, in cases of fire; to prevent obstructions in the streets, or other nuisances; for regulating the streets; for lighting the same; erecting public pounds, and for making wharves, docks, &c. &c. No taxes, however, exceeding four hundred dollars in total amount shall be laid in any one year. The village charter was amended April 30, 1829, the limits of the corporation being considerably extended. By the plan of Judge Cooper, the village plat originally contained one hundred and twelve acres, as has been stated, whereas the present boundaries probably include more than four hundred acres, though not

more than a third of this surface can be said to be actually occupied by the streets and dwellings.

In 1812, at the time of the incorporation of the place, Cooperstown contained 133 houses, &c., 57 barns and 686 inhabitants. January, 1816, there were 183 houses, offices, shops, 68 barns, 826 inhabitants.

A small fire engine was purchased by the village, in 1812, and a second was presented to it by the heirs of Judge Cooper, in 1815.

The business of Cooperstown became enlarged in consequence of the establishment of manufactories, in its vicinity. This enterprise was commenced in 1809, by the erection of the Union cotton manufactory, on the Oaks; since that time, many other similar works have been constructed in the neighborhood. In the village itself, works of various kinds have been gradually established, increasing the wealth and adding to the industry of the place.

After the erection of the range of stores on the old court house lot, a better style of buildings was introduced for similar purposes. Since that time, most of the stores, and many of the principal shops, have been constructed in brick or stone.

The late Isaac Cooper, Esq., commenced the house called Edgewater, in 1810, and removed into it in 1814. This building, which is 66 feet long, by 45 in width, is one of the best in the place.

The residence of Mr. Henry Phinney, on Chestnut street, was commenced in 1813, and completed in 1816. This is also one of the principal dwellings in the village.

Richard Fenimore Cooper, Esq., died in Albany, in March, 1813, and was brought to this place for interment. This gentleman, when a youth, accompanied his father to Otsego, and was one of the oldest inhabitants of the village. His son and grandchildren still exist in the place.

In 1808, a second newspaper, William Andrews, editor, was established under the name of the *Impartial Observer*. This print soon passed into the hands of John H. Prentiss, Esq., and its name was changed to that of *Cooperstown Federalist*. At a still later day the title of this paper was changed to that of the *Freeman's Journal*, under which appellation it is still known. With the exception of a short interval, the same editor and proprietor has been at the head of the establishment, for about twenty-nine years.

A paper called the *Watch Tower*, was set up in opposition to the *Cooperstown Federalist*, in 1814, Israel W. Clark, editor. In May, 1817, this paper was transferred to Edward B. Crandal, who remained its editor until its discontinuance, in 1831.

The *Tocsin* was established in 1829, but took the name of the *Otsego Republican* in 1831, under which title it still exists.

In July, 1813, died Elihu Phinney, Esq., aged fifty-eight. The arrival of this gentleman in the village has already been mentioned. Mr. Phinney was one of the judges of the county court for several years, and continued to control the *Otsego Herald* to the period of his death. The paper was published by his sons H. & E. Phinney until the year 1821, when it was discontinued, after an existence of 26 years.

In 1814, the children of Augustine and Susannah Prevost, who had purchased the judgment of John Morton, against their grandfather, George Croghan, which was the oldest judgment on record, attempted to revive the same by *scire facias* against all the terre-tenants on Cooper's patent. This measure of course made all the freeholders in the village parties in the suit. The executors of Judge Cooper, however, managed the defence. The proceedings connected with this lawsuit, lasted several years, when they were discontinued in consequence of the statute of limitations. As the heirs of Susannah Prevost, who was the devisee of George Croghan, held assets to more than the amount of the judgment, in consequence of a failure of title through informality, under one of the judgment sales against their ancestor, there can be no doubt that had the issue been tried on its merits, the defendants would have prevailed, without having recourse to the agreement of 1775, according to which, the lands were to have been sold, firstly to satisfy the judgment of Gov. Franklin, or that under which the terre-tenants held, secondly, to pay the mortgage of Thomas Wharton, and lastly, to satisfy this very judgment, which it was now attempted to revive, after a lapse of forty years.

On two several occasions, officers of the federal government established recruiting parties in this village. The first was in 1799, during the *quasi* war with France; Lieut. Joseph C. Cooper, who succeeded in enlisting about thirty men in the county, commanding the party. The second occasion occurred during the war of 1812, when a considerable detachment of riflemen was recruited in the vicinity, and collected in the village, under Capt. Grosvenor.

In the way of irregular troops, there have been several volunteer corps in Cooperstown, though none of any permanency, with the exception of the artillery. The first artillery company was established in 1798. William Abbot, captain, Samuel Huntington, first lieutenant, and George Walker, second. The pieces of this company entirely supplanted the Cricket, and since that time the villagers have never been without regular brass guns for their parades and festivals.

A volunteer company of horse was established in 1794, Captain Benjamin Griffin, commandant. Many persons now living, can recollect a celebrated sham fight between this cavalry and a party of men

disguised as Indians. The charges of the horse, on that occasion, are described as having been infinitely severe. At that time, the log fences, a good deal decayed, inclosed a great portion of the two principal blocks of the place, and the manner in which the cavalry got over them and through them, probably caused as much surprise to themselves as to the spectators. In this part of the field especially, the Indians are said to have discovered much the greatest address, although both parties, as usual, claimed the victory.

The first regular organization of the militia, in this part of the country, appears to have taken place in the year 1798, although detached companies existed previously. Jacob Morris, Esq., of Butter-nuts, was the first brigadier-general appointed, and Francis Henry, Esq., the first colonel of the regiment which included the village. John Howard was the first captain of the ordinary militia company of the beat. Capt. Howard was unfortunately drowned in the Susquehanna the next year, in making a noble effort to save a person who had got beneath some floodwood, and he was succeeded by William Sprague.

For a long time after the commencement of the village, Cooperstown suffered but little from fires ; several small buildings, it is true, were burned at different times, but the first considerable conflagration occurred on the night of the 30th of March, 1809, when the printing office of H. & E. Phinney took fire. The flames were communicated to a new dwelling house belonging to William Dowse, Esq., and both were consumed. These buildings stood on West street. The next day the Academy was also destroyed in the same way, and no attempt has ever been made to rebuild it.

A dwelling house and store, standing on Second street, and occupied by Joseph Wilkinson, were destroyed by fire, March 17, 1814.

A long range of storehouses belonging to the estate of Judge Cooper, also standing on Second street, was burned down in the winter of 1813. A part of this range was composed of the old Manor House, which had been converted into a storehouse.

The next considerable conflagration occurred on the night of the 27th of April, 1818, when a fire broke out in the hatter's shop of Ralph Worthington, and it was not subdued until it had consumed all the buildings on the north side of Second street, between the west corner of Fair street and the alley called Beaver alley, making six buildings altogether. This is much the most considerable fire that ever occurred within the limits of the village.

But the summer of 1823, was a serious time for the inhabitants of the village of Cooperstown. A succession of fires took place, under circumstances that scarce leave a doubt that they were mostly, if not

entirely, the acts of an incendiary. The Tannery was consumed on the night of the 12th July. On a thorough examination of the facts, it was generally believed it had been set on fire. A stone house, which had been erected at Fenimore, by J. Fenimore Cooper, Esq., between the years 1814 and 1817, was the next consumed. This place which, like Lakelands, stands without the village limits, properly belongs to the village community, and the principal dwelling was of considerable size and of a good finish, having all the conveniences of a country residence. The house was not completed nor inhabited, though it contained all the wood work and a large amount of valuable lumber. As it stood quite alone in the center of an extensive lawn, there can be but little doubt that it was set on fire. This house was destroyed to the naked walls.

Several barns which stood in the most compact parts of the village soon followed. Fortunately the injury, in few of these cases, extended beyond the buildings which first took fire. The incendiary, or incendiaries, were never satisfactorily discovered, though plausible conjectures have been made.

Since the recent alterations and repairs of the Hall have been going on, a window has been opened and a place has been discovered where tinder, oiled cotton, burnt matches and other combustibles were lying together, leaving little doubt that one if not more attempts were made to destroy that building also, and probably about the same time.

There are other instances in which there is reason to suppose that incendiaries had been at work in the village, one of which is a recent case of fire in the court house. This building was discovered to be on fire about four o'clock on the morning of the 24th of May, 1837, but the flames were subdued before they had done much injury. One of the prisoners in the jail was suspected of having set the building on fire, though the charge could not be substantiated.

Of late, scarcely a year passes without one or more fires, which usually proceed from defective or badly secured stove pipes, but no structure of any importance has been consumed. Indeed, it is the subject of surprise that no considerable dwelling house has ever been destroyed by fire within the village of Cooperstown, with the exception of that of Mr. Dowse and of one or two of secondary value and size, which were burned in the great fire of 1818. Almost every other building that has been burned, has been either a shop, barn, or store.

Cisterns for the collection of water have been sunk in the streets; hooks and ladders, fire buckets and hose are provided, and considering the size of the place, the provisions against fire are respectable. The firemen have usually been found active and bold, and cases have often occurred in which they have saved large portions of the village.

CHAPTER VI.

The size of Cooperstown received considerable accessions between the years 1805 and 1820. Several young lawyers established themselves in the place, among whom were William Dowse, George Morell, Samuel Starkweather, Joseph S. Lyman, Eben B. Morehouse, H. Flagg, and A. L. Jordan, Esquires. Mr. Morell removed to Michigan in 1832, and is at present one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of that state. Mr. Lyman was elected to Congress in 1818, but died during his term of service. Mr. Dowse was also elected a Member of Congress at a still earlier day, but never took his seat, having died previously to the meeting of that body. Messrs. Jordan and Flagg removed from the village after a few years' residence. Mr. Flagg died in one of the southern states, shortly after he left here.

The village has given the following Members to the Congress of the United States, to wit: William Cooper, who was first elected in 1794; John Russell, Esq., who was elected in 1804; John M. Bowers, Esq., who sat part of a session in 1813-14, but lost his seat in consequence of a decision of the House; William Dowse, Esq., elected in 1812, and died as already mentioned; Joseph S. Lyman, Esq., elected in 1818, and died in 1821; and John H. Prentiss, Esq., who is the sitting member.

The county of Otsego has for several years composed a Congressional District by itself, and of eleven Members chosen at different periods from the county, six have been residents of Cooperstown.

Several other gentlemen became residents of the place during the period already mentioned, and continued to increase and improve its society; among these were Messrs. Edmeston, Atchison, Augustine Prevost, and G. W. Prevost. A singular fatality attended the first three of these gentlemen. Col Prevost was lost in the well known shipwreck of the Albion packet. Mr. Edmeston was drowned while bathing, and Mr. Atchison fell by his own hand during an access of fever. Neither of these melancholy events occurred in the village.

Five deaths by drowning, in the lake, have occurred among the inhabitants of the village since the settlement of the place.

The village was much improved by the fire of 1818; stone and brick buildings having been principally erected in the place of those destroyed.

The first public house in Cooperstown, as has been said already, was kept by William Ellison, on Water street, near the outlet. But the first public house of any note, was the old Red Lion, kept by Joseph

Griffin, on the projecting corner of West and Second streets. This building, which at different times has been much enlarged, repaired and improved, has continued to be one of the principal inns of the place for forty-six years. The old sign, which was painted by an amateur artist, R. R. Smith, Esq., the first sheriff of the county, stood for many years, but to the great regret of the older inhabitants of the place, it has been made to disappear before some of the more ambitious improvements of the day, the house being now called the Eagle Tavern.

The second public house of any consequence, was the Blue Anchor, kept by William Cook, on the corner diagonally opposite to the Red Lion; this house was in much request for many years among all the genteeler portion of the travelers. Its host was a man of singular humors, great heartiness of character, and perfect integrity. He had been the steward of an English East-Indiaman, and enjoyed an enviable reputation in the village for his skill in mixing punch and flip. On holidays, a stranger would have been apt to mistake him for one of the magnates of the land, as he invariably appeared in a drab coat of the style of 1776, with buttons as large as dollars, breeches, striped stockings, buckles that covered half his foot, and a cocked hat large enough to extinguish him. The landlord of the Blue Anchor was a general favorite, his laugh and his pious oaths having become historical.

There were many other taverns in the place, the most considerable of which was Washington Hall. It stood on the north side of Second street, one door from the corner of Fair street. This house at one period was in more request than any other in the place, but not until the functions of the popular landlord of the Blue Anchor had ceased.

In 1832, the house adjoining the old Washington Hall was removed, and a spacious inn was erected on its site; this is at the eastern corner of Second and Fair streets, and the inn is known by the name of Union Hall.

A tavern was kept by Daniel Olendorf, on the northeast corner of Second and Chestnut streets for several years. This house was probably in more demand than any other that has been kept in the village, but it was discontinued in the early part of the present year, though it is still in request as a boarding house. The Eagle Tavern and Union Hall are now the two principal inns of the place, the first being the stage house.

According to the census of 1820, the population of the village had increased to 1,000, and in 1825 it was reduced to 857, while in 1830 it was 1,115. By the census of 1835, it was found to be 1,190. The

growth of the village has been in some degree retarded by the mania for western emigration and there was a period at the commencement of the century, when Judge Cooper made large drafts on this village and the surrounding country, for settlers on his other estates. The law abolishing imprisonment for debt, has also had a tendency to lessen the population of this village, in common with those of all the small county towns in the interior.

Notwithstanding the apparent stagnation in the place, Cooperstown has actually been greatly improved within the last fifteen years. Several houses have been erected in brick or stone, of respectable dimensions and of genteel finish; among these that of Mr. Elihu Phinney on West street, that of Mr. William Nichols on Fair street, that of Mr. Ellery Cory, also on West street, and that of Mr. John Hannay, on Second street, are among the most considerable. The last three are of stone.

A law was passed on the 8th day of April, 1830, incorporating a bank, by the title of the Otsego County Bank, and a stone banking-house was erected on the south side of Second street, nearly opposite to Fair street, in 1831. This bank has a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, and Robert Campbell and Henry Scott, Esquires both old and respectable inhabitants of the village, have been its president and cashier, since the formation of the institution. This incorporation has been well managed, and as it has been found very serviceable to the community, while it has escaped the imputations that rest on so many similar establishments in other places, it is in favor with all the intelligent part of the population.

Few of the very early heads of families in the village now remain; many of those even, who came in about the close of the last or the beginning of the present century, are already dead, and several of those who accompanied their parents as children, have followed them to the grave. Isaac Cooper, Esq., the second son of the proprietor, who for many years was an active inhabitant of the village, and who contributed little less than his father, to its improvement and embellishment, died on the 1st of January, 1818. His two brothers, William and Samuel, survived him but a short time.

Thomas Shankland, Esq., died 21st August, 1823, and his wife Rachel, 21st October, 1826. He was the owner of the mills south of the village at the time of his death.

James Averell, Esq., whose activity in business has been already mentioned, died as lately as December, 1836. His wife having preceded him to the grave about two years.

Dr. Thomas Fuller, whose practice in the village commenced in 1791, died on the 11th July, 1837.

Mr. Joshua Starr, another of the old inhabitants, died the 17th February, 1838, and his wife on the 5th May, 1837.

Mr. Ralph Worthington and Mr. John Frederick Ernst, both respectable residents for a long time, died early, the first on the 9th September, 1828, and the second, on the 29th November, 1830.

Descendants of all these families exist in the second and third, and in some cases, in the fourth generations.

The families longest resident in Cooperstown, are the following, the date of the connection with the place being put opposite to the name of each, viz: Cooper, 1785-1790; Miller, 1786; Averell, 1786-1788; White, 1788; Baldwin, 1790; Fuller, 1791; Starr, 1792; Griffin, 1792; Ingalls, 1793; Graves, 1793; Phinney, 1795; Russell, 1796; Ernst, 1799; Metcalf, 1799; Bowden, 1799; Pomeroy, 1801; Campbell, 1802; Worthington, 1802; McNamee, 1802; Olendorf, 1802; Foote, 1804; Scott, 1805; Prentiss, 1808, &c., &c., &c. To these may be added several families that have long been settled in the adjoining country, and of which some of the members now reside in the village. Among the latter, we find the names of Fitch, 1790-1814; Clark, 1796-1812; Jarvis, 1786-1832; Stowel, 1792-1822; Doubleday, 1794-1821; Luce, 1788-1830. The family of Bowers may also be enumerated, though not within the village limits, coming in 1803. Of the above mentioned names, Messrs. Miller, White, Baldwin, Russell, Griffin, Bowden, Campbell, Pomeroy, Foote, McNamee, Scott, Olendorf and Prentiss, the original head of each family, are still living, as is also Mr. Bowers.

John Miller is now, and indeed, for a long time has been, the oldest living settler. His children own the property which he first cleared from the forest. James White, a carpenter, well known for his industry and hard application to his work, is the next oldest settler, and Joseph Baldwin, cooper, is the third; the fourth male is James Fenimore Cooper, Esquire. This gentleman was born 1789, and in 1790, was brought an infant, a year old, into the village, with the family of Judge Cooper, of which he was the youngest child. His sister, Mrs. Pomeroy, is the longest resident among the females, neither of those already named as older inhabitants, her own father excepted, having been married at the time of the arrival of her family. The next oldest female resident, we believe to be the wife of Joseph Baldwin.

Of descendants, there have been four generations of the Cooper family in the place, from father to son. This is the only instance, we believe, in which the fourth generation has yet been reached in the same name, though it has been several times done through females. The grand-children of the older settlers are in active life, however, in very many instances.

The following names belong to families, that may now be considered as old inhabitants, though their residence is of comparatively recent date, viz : E. Cory, Gregory, Nichols, G. A. Starkweather, Waterman, Paul, Perkins, Tracey, Wilson, Spafard, Lewis, Besancon, H. Cory, Cooley and Davis.

Some of the members of these families are now among the most respectable and useful inhabitants of the place.

In 1825, Samuel Nelson, Esquire, the judge of the circuit court, married the only daughter of Judge Russell, and became an inhabitant of Cooperstown. Judge Nelson resided some time at Apple hill, but in 1829 he purchased Fenimore, and enlarging the farm-house, he converted it into a spacious and convenient dwelling. The walls of the ruins left by the fire of 1823, were removed in 1826, and no traces of that situation now remain, but its foundations. Judge Nelson was promoted to the bench of the Supreme Court in 1833, and in 1836, he became its chief justice.

John A. Dix, Esquire, the present Secretary of State, purchased Apple Hill of the heirs of R. Fenimore Cooper, Esq., in 1828, but sold it to Levi C. Turner, Esq., at his removal to Albany, on his being appointed Adjutant-General. Mr. Turner is married to the daughter of Robert Campbell, Esq., and is the present owner of that beautiful situation.

In 1829, Eben B. Morehouse, Esquire, purchased a few acres of Mr. Bowers, on the side of the Vision, at the point where the old state road made its first turn to ascend the mountain, and caused a handsome dwelling in stone to be constructed. This place, which has received the appropriate name of Woodside, has been extensively embellished, and as it enjoys the advantage of possessing a beautiful pine grove, it is generally esteemed one of the most desirable residences of the neighborhood. In 1836, Mr. Morehouse sold Woodside to Samuel Wootton Beall, Esquire, a native of Maryland, who had married into the family of Cooper.

After the death of the late Isaac Cooper, Esquire, the house at Edgewater was sold. An abortive attempt was made to get up a female school, and this house was altered, in order to meet such an object. This project failed, and in 1834, the property was sold to Theodore Keese, Esquire, of New York, by whom it has been repaired, and the grounds restored to their original beauty, and indeed improved. Mr. Keese uses Edgewater as a summer residence, having married into the family of Pomeroy.

The Hall having passed into the hands of J. Fenimore Cooper, Esquire, that gentleman, shortly after his return from Europe, or in 1834, had it extensively repaired, and a good deal altered. The roof had

rotted, and it was replaced by a new one on the old inclination, but the walls of the building were raised four feet. On these were placed battlements and heavy cornices in brick, that add altogether eight feet to the elevation of the building. The distance between the rows of the windows was increased three feet, by filling in the lower ends of the upper windows, and by placing new stools, the necessary height having been obtained above. Much ornamental brick work has been added, and the effect has been altogether advantageous. All the floors of the second story have also been raised, giving to the principal rooms a better height than they formerly possessed, while those above have been improved the same way, by the addition to the general height of the building. Appropriate entrances have been made on both fronts, that are better suited to the style of architecture and to the climate than the ancient stoops, and two low towers have been added to the east end, which contribute greatly to the comfort of the house, as a residence. The improvements and alterations are still proceeding slowly, and this dwelling, which for ten or twelve years was nearly deserted, promises to be one of the best country houses in the state again. The grounds have also been enlarged and altered, the present possessor aiming at what is called an English garden. During the life of Judge Cooper, these grounds contained about three acres, but they are now enlarged to near five.

Great improvements have been made in the streets of late years, which have been accurately graded, and in some instances the sidewalks have been flagged. The carriage ways are smooth, in general, and we believe no stump now remains in any of the public avenues. There is a deficiency in the supply of water, however, Cooperstown being less abundantly furnished with this great necessary in 1838 than it was forty years ago; for at that time, log aqueducts were led under ground, from the western mountain into the village. Wells are numerous, though the water is usually hard, and unsuited to domestic purposes; luckily there are several excellent springs within the circle of the houses, and from these the inhabitants obtain most of their supplies. A law was passed in 1827, to incorporate a company to supply the place with water, and it is to be hoped that the day is not distant when its very desirable objects will be carried into effect.

CHAPTER VII.

Having now given the simple and brief annals of the place, from the time when the site of Cooperstown was a wilderness, down to the present moment, we shall close our labors, with a more general account of its actual condition, trusting that posterity will not permit any period to extend beyond the memory of man, without adding to that which has been here given, in order that there may always exist authentic local annals, for the information and uses of those most interested.

The village of Cooperstown stands in the 44th^o of north latitude, and as near as can be ascertained from maps, in the 76th^o of longitude, west from Greenwich. It contains within the corporate limits, according to an enumeration that has been made expressly for this work, the following buildings, viz. :

Dwelling Houses	169	Churches	5
Stores	20	Bank	1
Shops	42	Court House.....	1
Offices	14	Engine House.....	1
Total,.....			253

To these buildings may be added between sixty and eighty barns, carriage-houses, stables and minor constructions, that stand in the rear of the lots. The buildings of Lakelands, Woodside, and Fenimore, all of which places, though quite near the village, stand without its legal limits, are also omitted in this enumeration. If these latter, and some ten or twelve dwelling-houses that stand between Fenimore and Cooperstown, be included, the total number of buildings of all sorts, would not be far from three hundred and fifty.

The population does not probably vary much from 1,300 souls at the present moment.

Cooperstown is better built than common, for a village of its size. Of the dwelling-houses, there are a good many of stone or brick, as there are also stores and shops. In the whole, near forty of the buildings are of one or the other of these materials. Many of the dwellings, besides those particularly named, are genteelly finished, and would be considered respectable habitations even in the larger towns.

The village is beautifully placed at the southern end of the lake, being bounded on one side by its shores, and on another by its outlet,

the Susquehanna. The banks of both these waters are sufficiently elevated, varying from twenty to forty feet. Apple hill probably stands sixty or seventy feet above the river, which it almost overhangs. There is an irregular descent from the rear of the town towards the banks of the lake, and which has been brought to a regular grading in some of the streets running north and south. The place is clean, the situation is dry, and altogether it is one of the healthiest residences in the State.

Lake Otsego is a sheet of limpid water, extending, in a direction from N. N. East to S. S. West, about nine miles, and varying in width from about three-quarters of a mile to a mile and a half. It has many bays and points, and as the first are graceful and sweeping, and the last low and wooded, they contribute largely to its beauty. The water is cool and deep, and the fish are consequently firm and sweet. The two ends of the lake, without being shallow, deepen their water gradually, but there are places on its eastern side in particular, where a large ship might float with her yards in the forest. The greatest ascertained depth is at a place about two miles from the village, where bottom has been got with a line of one hundred and fifty feet. There are probable spots of a still greater depth. The fish of the Otsego have a deserved reputation, and, at particular seasons, are taken in great abundance. Among those that are edible, may be mentioned the following, viz. : the lake fish, or salmon trout, the bass, eels, perch, sun-fish, pickerel, cat-fish, or bull-pouts, and suckers. The river has the white fish, and many of the small neighboring streams are richly supplied with common trout. The trout is little, if any, inferior to the salmon, and has been caught as large as from twenty to thirty pounds ; those that weigh from eight to twelve pounds are not uncommon. The bass, or Otsego bass, is also a delicious fish, resembling the white fish of the great lakes. The pickerels and the eels are both excellent of their kind, and very abundant in their seasons.

The shores of the Otsego are generally high, though greatly varied. On the eastern side, extends a range of steep mountains, that varies in height from four to six hundred feet, and which is principally in forest, though here and there a farm relieves its acclivities. The road along this side of the lake is peculiarly pleasant, and traveled persons call it one of the most strikingly picturesque roads within their knowledge. The western shore of the lake is also high, though more cultivated. As the whole country possesses much wood, the farms, viewed across the water, on this side of the lake, resemble English park scenery. Some of the glimpses of the settlement, which has obtained the name of Pier's from the circumstance that several

farmers of that family originally purchased lands there, are singularly beautiful, even as seen from the village.

Immediately opposite to the village, on the eastern side of the valley (for the Susquehanna winds its way for near four hundred miles through a succession of charming valleys,) the range of mountain terminates, heaving itself up into an isolated hummock, however, before it melts away into the plain. This rise is called the Vision, and its summit is much frequented for its views, which are unrivaled in this part of the country. The ascent is easy, by means of roads and paths, and when there, the spectator gets a bird's-eye view of the village, which appears to lie directly beneath him, of the valley, and of the lake. The latter, in particular, is singularly lovely, displaying all the graceful curvatures of its western shores, while the landscape behind them, embracing Piers, and the hills beyond, is one of the richest and most pleasing rural pictures that can be offered to the eye. Nothing is wanting but ruined castles and recollections, to raise it to the level of the scenery of the Rhine, or, indeed, to that of the minor Swiss views.

Prospect rock, which lies on the same range with the Vision, also offers a good view of the village and the valley, though it does not command as extensive an horizon as the first.

The mountains south of Cooperstown form a background of great beauty, and it is seldom that a more graceful and waving outline of forest is met with any where. The Black hills in particular, are exceedingly fine, and are supposed to be nearly a thousand feet above the level of the lake.

As the valley of Cooperstown is about twelve hundred feet above tide, it will readily be conceived that the summers are cool and the air invigorating. These facts are very apparent to those who come from the low counties during the warm months. Even with the thermometer at eighty, as sometimes happens, there is a sensible difference between the oppression produced by the heat here, and by that produced by the same heat at a less elevation. The lake also, has the effect to produce a circulation of air, it being seldom that there is not a breeze either up or down this beautiful sheet of water.

The banks of the lake abound with eligible situations for country houses. On its western side, there is scarcely a quarter of a mile without one and we feel persuaded that nothing but a good road to the Mohawk is wanting to bring this spot into so much favor as shall line the shores of the Otsego with villas. As the roads now are, it requires but twenty hours to go to New York, and by the improvements that are in progress there is reason to expect this time will ere long be shortened to ten or twelve hours. When that day shall ar-

rive, we predict that Cooperstown, during five months of the year, will become a place of favorite resort for those who wish a retreat from the dust and heat of the larger towns.

The society of this place is already of a higher order than that of most villages of its size. In this respect, Cooperstown has always been remarkable, more liberal tastes and a better style of living having prevailed in the place from its commencement than is usually to be found in new countries. At different periods, many families and individuals accustomed to the best society of the country have dwelt here, and they have imparted to the place the habits and tone of their own condition in life. So far from gaining by a closer connection with the commercial towns therefore, in this respect, there is reason to think that the village might not be better off than it is at present.

Lying as it does off the great routes, the village of Cooperstown is less known than it deserves to be. Few persons visit it without acknowledging the beauties of its natural scenery and the general neatness and decency of the place itself. The floating population, it is true, has brought in some of that rudeness and troublesome interference which characterizes the migrating and looser portion of the American people; but a feeling has been awakened among the old inhabitants that is beginning to repel this innovation, and we already, in this class, see signs of a return to the ancient deportment, which was singularly respectable, having been equally free from servile meanness and obtrusive vulgarity. One or two instances of audacious assumptions of a knowledge of facts and of a right to dictate, on the part of strangers, have recently met with rebukes that will probably teach others caution, if they do not teach them modesty. On the whole, the feeling of the community is sound, and is little disposed to tolerate this interference with the privileges of those who have acquired rights by time and a long connection with the place.

It has been said, both directly and indirectly, that the village of Cooperstown is well built; unlike most such places, its best houses are private residences, and not taverns. The Hall and Edgewater are both American country houses of the first class. The house of Mr. Henry Phinney, which is sometimes called the Locusts, is a very pretty pavilion of considerable size, and the building is well finished and in good style; all three are of brick. Woodside is also a substantial and respectable dwelling, in stone. Lakelands is not a very large house, but it is well placed, and is finished more like a villa than any other building around it. Apple hill has a house of no great beauty, but the situation is much the best within the limits of the village. The present house at Fenimore is respectable, though with very little pretensions to architecture; but the whole of the

grounds are delightful, and the site of the old building is one of the most beautiful in the State, for a residence of that character. In addition to these places, which, from possessing select grounds, are the most conspicuous, there are a dozen other dwellings that have more or less advantages, and some of which are also well placed. Even many of the buildings that stand directly on the principal streets are above the ordinary level, and the general impression made on the observer is that of respectability and good taste. Many of the houses have gardens, though the original plan prevented the introduction of court yards, of which there are but eight or ten that deserve the name in the place.

The present condition of Cooperstown is sufficiently prosperous, without being in that state of feverish excitement that has afflicted so many other small towns. The trade is not great, but it is steady and profitable. The village contains six dry goods stores, all of which are on a respectable scale; four groceries; two druggists; hatters, watchmakers and jewelers, tinmen, and the customary number of more common* mechanics, such as tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths, &c., &c., some of which establishments are on a scale larger than common.

Distinctly within the recollection of many now living, or some forty years ago, there were not probably half a dozen pianofortes, if as many, in the State west of Schenectady. There was one in the Hall, which was certainly the only one in the county of Otsego at that time. There are now two manufactories of the instrument in the village, both of which also make organs, and no less than thirty-five private houses in which pianos are to be found. Three of the churches have organs. Lessons in music are given by three different competent persons, and a good taste in this delightful art is fast obtaining.

There are two boarding schools for females in Cooperstown, though no good classical school for boys has ever existed in the place. The proximity to the Hartwick Academy, distant only five miles, is supposed to retard the accomplishment of so desirable an object. Nevertheless, a higher order of instruction is gradually coming into use, particularly among the females, and as Cooperstown has always possessed good models, it is hoped the attainments and principles which render the sex so attractive and useful, as well as respectable, will take deep root in the community. As they improve their minds and tastes, the young of that sex, on whose example so much depends, will obtain new sources of happiness, which, while they create a disrelish for the less refined amusements, will give them a still higher

*Mr. Cooper, by the term "common," here means, of course, *general*, i. e., mechanics generally found in all places.

standard of attainments, juster notions of their own dignity, and an increasing dislike for those familiar and unladylike pursuits that are too apt to form the aim of a mere village belle. The term village belle, however, is inapplicable to the state of society that already exists in this little community, and we regard, with satisfaction, the signs of a more general advancement than formerly, in the accomplishments that mark an improved association, the possession of which is so certain, when carried beyond their elements, to bring with it its own reward.

Cooperstown has two weekly newspapers, the *Freeman's Journal* and the *Otsego Republican*, the former of which has always been esteemed for a respectable literary taste. In politics, as a matter of course, these papers are opposed to each other.

There are nine practitioners in the law, at present residing in the village, viz : Messrs. Campbell, Crippen, Morehouse, Cooper, Bowne, Walworth, Lathrop, Starkweather and Turner. William H. Averell, Esquire, is also in the profession, but he does not practice. Of these gentlemen, Messrs. Averell and Cooper are natives of the place ; Messrs. Campbell and Crippen of the county.

The principal mercantile firms are those of H. B. & G. W. Ernst, L. McNamee, E. D. Richardson & Co., J. Stowell, John Russell & Co., and H. Lathrop & Co. Most of these gentlemen are natives of the village, or of the country immediately around it. Mr. McNamee is a European by birth, but he has resided in Cooperstown, as a merchant, thirty-six years.

There are four practising physicians at present, viz : Doctors Spafard, Curtis, Johnson and Harper.

The printing establishment of Messrs. H. & E. Phinney is one of the most extensive manufactories in the village, if not the most extensive. It ordinarily employs about forty hands, of both sexes, and consumes annually 3,000 reams of paper. It has five presses in almost constant use. Large Bibles and school books are chiefly produced. Of the former, this house publishes 8,000 copies annually. It also publishes 60,000 volumes of other books, chiefly school books, and 200,000 almanacs, toy books, &c.

The tannery is still kept up, and it produces a considerable amount of leather, annually. Iron castings are also made in the village. The manufactory of Messrs. E. & H. Cory, in cabinet ware, pails, &c., &c., is on a respectable scale. The manufactory of hats, by J. R. Worthington, an establishment that has passed into the second generation of the same family, is also considerable ; Ralph Worthington carried on the business in 1802. Mr. Stephen Gregory has long had a respectable shoe store and manufactory, that is still kept up. The industry

of the place, however, as a whole, is directed more toward supplying the wants of the surrounding country, than to exportation. In this sense, the business is considerable, and is gradually increasing, with the growing wealth of the county.

Although Cooperstown, which has now had an existence of half a century, may not have produced any very eminent men, it has had a fair proportion of respectable citizens. Several young artists and mechanics, that were born here, have risen to some notoriety in their several callings, and the clergy and the members of the bar, have generally maintained respectable stations in their respective professions.

Cooperstown for the last twenty years has been rather remarkable for its female population. Perhaps no place of its size can boast of a finer collection of young women than this village, the salubrity of the climate appearing to favor the development of their forms and constitutions. The beauty, indeed, of the sex in this village, has been celebrated in verse even, and we think quite justly.

As the growth and improvement of Cooperstown have been steady, and, with very trifling exceptions, regularly progressive, they may be expected to continue in the same ratio, for a long time to come. We shall have no mushroom city, but there is little doubt that in the course of time, as the population of the country fills up, this spot will contain a provincial town of importance. The beauty of its situation, the lake, the purity of the air, and the other advantages already pointed out, seem destined to make it more peculiarly a place of resort, for those who live less for active life than for its elegance and ease. It is highly probable that, half a century hence, the shores of the lake will be lined with country residences, when the village will be the center of their supplies of every kind. Were an effort made, even now, by the erection of proper lodging houses, the establishment of reading rooms and libraries, and the embellishment of a few of the favorable spots, in the way of public promenades and walks, it strikes us that it would be quite easy to bring the place into request, as one of resort for the inhabitants of the large towns during the warm months. The mode adopted in the smaller European towns, would be the most suitable for commencing such an experiment. If a few persons with narrow incomes, and who possessed proper buildings, were to fit up rooms, as parlors and bed rooms, a set in each house, furnish the breakfasts and tea, and, if required, the dinner, persons of fortune would be induced to frequent the place, would pay liberal prices, and the village in a few years, would reap the benefit of a large expenditure. The system of common boarding houses will not for a long time draw to Cooperstown company in sufficient numbers to remunerate; or company even of the right quality; but half a

dozen furnished lodgings, on a respectable scale, we think would lay the foundation of a system that might prove to be exceedingly serviceable to the interests of the place. There is everything that is wanted for such an object, and, as society produces society, a few years would bring an accession of this important requisite, that would be certain to sustain itself.

To conclude, Cooperstown is evidently destined to occupy some such place among the towns of New York, as is now filled by the villages and towns on the shores of the lakes of Westmoreland, in England, and by the several *bourgs* on those of the different waters of Switzerland. The period of this consummation may be advanced, or it may be retarded by events; though nothing will be so likely to hasten it, as to provide the means of comfortable private lodgings. As it is, scarcely a summer passes that families do not reluctantly go from this beautiful spot, to others less favored by nature, and with an inferior society, in consequence of their being unable to obtain the required accommodations. Still every thing shows a direction towards this great end, among which may be mentioned the increasing taste for boating for music, the languages, and other amusements and accomplishments of the sort, that bespeak an improving civilization.

THE CHRONICLES—CONTINUED.

BY S. M. SHAW.

CHAPTER VIII.

FROM 1838 TO 1851.

During this period of thirteen years, Cooperstown witnessed comparatively few marked improvements or changes, and little or no increase in population—the removal of the Phinneys' printing business and bindery to Buffalo, after the destruction of their establishment by fire in 1849, causing the change of residence of a number of families, some of whose members had found employment therein. The social life of the village was quiet and pleasant—more truly enjoyable, some of the old residents think, than it has been since the time when the "general lake party," some seasons repeated, was the one grand feature of the summer season, and the "select ball" that of the winter. The village newspapers of that period paid very little attention to local matters, and hence can be drawn upon for but few items of interest. But we are enabled to record the following:

1839.—E. Beach, C. E., was employed to survey a route for a railroad from Cooper town to intersect the proposed Catskill and Canajoharie railroad, at a point near the latter village. He made a report at a public meeting held here January 30th, of this year, over which James Stowell presided. It proposed the construction of a road on the east side of the lake; estimated cost for a road 29 miles long, \$301,160. A meeting was held February 14th, at which a committee was appointed to apply to the legislature for a charter. That was the last of the enterprise, so far as Cooperstown was concerned. The people of Canajoharie were more interested, and we have heard it stated that a small piece of the proposed road was graded near that village.

On the last Sunday in May, Coroner Isaac Lewis of this village was called to Springfield, to hold an inquest on the bodies of five persons who were drowned in Lake Summit. They attempted to cross that pond in a leaky boat, which sunk with them.

A County Educational Society, whose object it was to improve the public schools of Otsego, with Hon. Samuel Nelson as president, ex-

isted in 1839. Mr. Cooper presided at the meeting held here which organized the Society. Horace Lathrop, Esq., was secretary.

In September, President Martin Van Buren visited Cooperstown, and received quite an ovation. He was accompanied hither from Fort Plain by Judge Nelson and Col. Prentiss. He was met, about a mile out of the village, by a large cavalcade of men of both political parties. On his arrival he was formally welcomed by Judge Morehouse, and he made a brief response from the piazza of the Eagle Hotel. He remained from Saturday till Monday, and then went to Cherry Valley. During his visit he was called upon by a great many party and personal friends.

1840.—On the 27th of June, a Mr. Ballard and Mr. Minor were rowing on the lake, when accidentally the boat was upset, and Ballard was drowned. Minor was rescued, although nearly exhausted, and revived after a short time.

Gov. Seward made the 4th of July oration at Cherry Valley this year. On the evening of that day, Dr. Russell, Wm. Nichols and Geo. W. Ernst of this village, as a committee, waited upon and brought him to Cooperstown. The next day was Sunday, and the Governor attended the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches. On Monday a lake party was given at the Point, in his honor, which was largely attended by the villagers and people of the surrounding country. L. J. Walworth, Esq., made an address of welcome to Governor Seward, who replied at length. The party that came down the lake on the old scow, stopped in front of the Echo, and several persons tried their voices to show off the wonderfully clear reverberation that would be given. "Joe Tom," who had been "chief cook" on the occasion, and who was now at one of the long oars, was asked to try the echo. "Hurrah for Governor Steward!" "You got it, to a t. Joe!" exclaimed the Governor.

Party politics ran very high in Cooperstown this year, and many meetings were held in and near the village. The village had long been noted for its many prominent and active politicians.

The County Jail, which succeeded the old log structure, was burned Dec. 17. Strong efforts were then made by other towns to change the location; but they failed, and in January, 1841, the sum of \$10,000 was appropriated by the Supervisors for a Court House, Jail and Sheriff's residence. They were completed in October of that year.

Three of what Mr. Cooper would style "very respectable" residences, all of wood, were put up this year, and all in the same general style: one by Mr. G. W. Ernst on Water street; one by Mr. Levi Wood at the southern terminus of West street, and one by Mr.

Benj. F. Kipp on the same street, on the sight of his present brick building.

1841.—On the 23d of Feb., a little son of Mr. Alonzo Woodward of this village, in attempting to jump upon a sleigh, missed his hold and fell under one of the runners, which passed over his body before the horses could be stopped. The child expired in about 15 minutes.

The residence of Mr. William Nichols took fire in the attic, May 18th, and very narrowly escaped destruction. It was materially damaged.

At the Circuit Court held the week beginning Sept. 13th, occurred the trial of the libel suit brought by J. Fenimore Cooper against Park Benjamin, editor of the *New World*, in which the defendant was mulcted in \$375 damages. At the Montgomery Circuit Court held the following month, Mr. Cooper received \$400 against Mr. Thurlow Weed, in a similar trial for libel. S. S. Bowne, Esq., and Richard Cooper, Esq., were attorneys for Mr. Cooper in this and several other similar suits.

1842.—At the Circuit Court held in Cooperstown during April of this year, Mr. Cooper received judgments against two other editors, and in September of the same year a verdict of \$200 was rendered for the plaintiff, in a libel suit instituted by Mr. Cooper against the *Albany Evening Journal*.

On November 8 Searle's Tavern, situated where the Central Hotel now stands, very narrowly escaped destruction by fire, the roof being burnt off and the third story much injured.

In December, the Rev. F. T. Tiffany, rector of Christ Church of this village, was elected to the place of Chaplain of the House of Representatives—an honor which gave much pleasure to his many friends here.

1843.—Unusual, and to a great extent successful efforts, were made in this town during this year to enforce the temperance laws. The "Washingtonian" movement was then in full blast. At the annual meeting of the County Medical Society, held in July, 65 members were present, and a resolution was passed adopting the Washingtonian pledge. The movement was one of great popularity, and it accomplished much good.

Governor Bouck, who had been in attendance at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hartwick Seminary, of which he was a member, stopped over night in Cooperstown at the Eagle Hotel.

Doct. John Russell, long a resident of this village, the father of Mrs. Judge Nelson, died the 2d of August, in the 71st year of his

age. He had been much in public life, including Member of Congress and County Clerk. He was a large land-owner in the village, and a public-spirited citizen. His wife was a Miss Williams, whose near relatives were closely identified with large business interests in and near Cooperstown. Dr. Russell resided in the house which stood on the corner of Main and Pioneer streets, where is now the store of H. M. Hooker & Co. Judge Nelson afterward occupied this dwelling, and about 1835 put up the brick building adjoining, now owned and occupied by the Murphy Sisters. Mrs. Frederick T. Starkweather, a grand-daughter of Dr. Russell and youngest daughter of Judge Nelson, is now, with her children, a resident of Cooperstown.

A large convention of Town Superintendents of Public Schools was held here in September, which was also attended by others feeling an interest in the cause of public education, and a noted address was made by James Henry, Esq., of Herkimer, which was afterwards published.

1844.—Another "Presidential year," and the local papers taken up almost exclusively with politics.

Commodore Omar Boden, spoken of by Mr. Cooper as coming here in 1798, died in May, aged 78 years.

Only a few buildings were erected on the corporation during the past two or three years.

1845.—As early as January of this year, a Hop Growers' Association was formed here, with J. W. Tunncliff as president, and Geo. W. Ernst as secretary. It did not accomplish any thing of apparent benefit to the growers.

In this year, and again in 1847, additions were made to the water supply for the village, after which the company represented their total expenditures at about \$8,000. The water all came from two large springs.

1846.—A County Temperance Society was formed here, with Col. John H. Prentiss as President. It was soon carried into politics, and did not long retain its organization.

Levi Clearwater was tried September 14th, for the killing of Nathan Tiffany, of Milford, on May 12, of this year, while under the influence of liquor. He was defended by ex-Gov. Seward, and the verdict was manslaughter in the 3d degree, with a sentence of four years in Auburn State Prison.

1847.—On the 4th of March a large meeting assembled at the Court House to organize measures for the relief of the suffering people of Ireland. Robert Campbell, Esq., presided, and an address was made

by James Fenimore-Cooper. The effort to raise substantial assistance was quite successful.

On the 15th day of March, a dwelling house on Fair street, owned by Judge Nelson, and occupied by E. S. Coffin and S. McK. Thompson, took fire and was consumed, together with a large portion of the furniture of the tenants. The total loss was about \$1,500.

1848.—During a large part of this “Presidential” year, the local papers were mainly filled up with discussions of the three-cornered political contest, and were very personal and bitter in their remarks.

In the spring there were several cases of small-pox reported on the corporation, which did considerable damage to the business of the place. Only two deaths occurred from that much-dreaded disease.

In April of this year, Judge Morehouse held his first Circuit in Cooperstown, and established his reputation at home as an able jurist.

1849.—Twice, during this winter, was the large establishment of H. & E. Phinney—embracing printing office, bindery and bookstore—set on fire. The first attempt was in February, on the main, four-story, brick building, on West (now Pioneer) street, in which was most of the machinery and stock. All were burned—except what property was on the first floor, most of which was removed. Other buildings were endangered, and some times on fire, but only that in which the fire originated was consumed. The loss to the Messrs. Phinney was upwards of \$25,000. They also suffered large damage from derangement to their business. A second building near, in which they also had paper and other material, was not destroyed. Four weeks later, occurred the second and finishing incendiary fire, which destroyed the other building used by this firm in their business. It was discovered about five o'clock in the morning, and was probably set a few hours earlier. The loss was about \$10,000; the insurance only one-half that amount. A large number of persons in the employ of the Messrs. Phinney, were obliged to leave the village after this disaster, from a lack of employment, and thus it was a serious affair in respect to the interests of the place, as the business was removed to Buffalo.

The original of the following paper, in the handwriting of Col. J. H. Prentiss, was handed us by Mr. George W. Ernst, while on a visit to Cooperstown, the day on which the preceding paragraph was put in type, and we give it as of interest in this connection. All but three of the subscribers were living here when the editor of this book came to Cooperstown, in the fall of 1851; and all but eleven of them are now deceased:

Whereas, several incendiary letters have been addressed to the Messrs. Phinney, within the past two years, threatening the destruction of

their buildings and property, received through the drop in the Post-office; and, whereas, on the morning of the 3d inst. their brick building was destroyed by fire, through which they suffered great loss, and the property of several other of our citizens was damaged and seriously endangered; and since that date, another of those incendiary letters have been received as aforesaid, in which the burning of the building is avowed and other depredations threatened, in case the Messrs. Phinney do not do a certain act; therefore, the undersigned deem it proper that the Trustees of the village of Cooperstown should offer a suitable reward for the detection and judicial punishment of such offender or offenders, and to that end authorize them so to do, and as an indemnification for such proceeding on their part, agree to pay to them upon such detection and conviction, the several sums set opposite their names hereto signed. Dated February 21, 1849.

Calvin Graves, - - -	\$25 00	L. McNamee, - - -	\$20 00
W. H. Averell, - - -	50 00	J. L. Fox, - - -	5 00
J. R. Worthington, - - -	25 00	H. C. Fish, - - -	5 00
Henry Scott, - - -	25 00	Schuyler Crippen, - - -	5 00
Theodore Keese, - - -	25 00	E. S. Coffin, - - -	10 00
H & E. Phinney, - - -	200 00	C. Thiny, - - -	5 00
Jno. H. Prentiss, - - -	25 00	R. Waterman, - - -	25 00
Robert Davis, - - -	25 00	E. P. Byram, - - -	5 00
E. & H. Cory, - - -	25 00	Chas. McLean, - - -	5 00
G. W. Ernst, - - -	25 00	H. F. Clark, - - -	5 00
Stephen Gregory, - - -	20 00	Russell Warren, - - -	10 00
J. H. Nellis & Co., - - -	15 00	P. E. Johnson, - - -	10 00
S. Doubleday, - - -	10 00	P. G. Tanner, - - -	5 00
Richard Cooley, - - -	10 00	S. A. Bailey, - - -	10 00
James Stowel, - - -	25 00	H. Hollister, - - -	5 00
W. A. Comstock, - - -	5 00	W. C. Keyes, - - -	5 00
Alex. H. Clark, - - -	30 00	Levi Wood, - - -	10 00
Chandler Root, - - -	20 00	Levi J. Pierce, - - -	25 00
Henry J. Bowers, - - -	25 00	S. W. Root, - - -	10 00
Z. Willoughby, - - -	10 00	L. & D. Ball, - - -	10 00
Stillman & Wood, - - -	5 00	J. Fenimore Cooper, - - -	25 00
R. A. Lesley, - - -	5 00	Geo. A. Starkweather, - - -	20 00
Beadle & Bailey, - - -	5 00	S. Nelson, - - -	50 00
William Lewis, - - -	25 00		

During this year Mr. George W. Ernst constructed the stone block of two stores on Main street, one of which he occupied as a dry goods merchant until 1862. He was appointed the first U. S. Internal Revenue Collector for this District by President Lincoln. He is still living—at present a resident of Maryland, where he is closing up his business preparatory to returning to his old home in Cooperstown, his

native place. Robert Russell is the present owner of this stone block.

Judge Morehouse died suddenly December 16. His death was severely felt, both in his profession and the social circle in which he was prominent. He had been recently chosen Judge of the Supreme Court. The Bar of Otsego county met on the 17th, and drew up resolutions of respect. He was one of the most genial, pleasant, witty gentlemen, who ever graced the society of Cooperstown.

1850.—On the morning of January 31, the dry goods and grocery store of Mr. James Cockett was seriously damaged by fire, being saved, with the adjacent buildings, only by the strenuous efforts of the firemen and citizens. The loss was covered by insurance.

During this year the Messrs. Phinney erected their building, now known as the "Phinney block." The firm occupied the first floor, the second was rented, and the third was engaged for an Odd Fellows' Hall—now occupied by the Masons as a lodge room.

In July, Capt. Boden launched the "Leatherstocking," a pleasure boat capable of carrying about 75 persons.

The most noted village improvement made this year, was the building of Mr. Joshua H. Story's large stone store, designed to be the best then in the county. In it, up to the time of Mr. Story's death, in 1871, was transacted the largest dry goods trade in Otsego county. Mr. Story was a business man of great enterprise and energy, and at the time of his death a large real estate owner.

This year closed with a great excitement in Cooperstown, growing out of the robbing of the Otsego County Bank, on the night of December 28, by burglars, of about \$30,000—within two or three thousand dollars of the surplus of the bank. As the news spread over the county, the excitement increased. In the September following, Abijah Leonard was tried and convicted of the burglary; he undoubtedly had accomplices; some thought he was not here personally at the robbery, but made the tools and directed the movements. One of his brothers was here once or twice, just preceding the robbery, and stopped at the hotel opposite.

In this year the Empire House passed into the hands of Gen. Brown, who retained it till 1866. It enjoyed a just popularity under his excellent management.

CHAPTER IX.

FROM 1851 TO 1861.

This decade marked several noticeable improvements and evidences of enterprise in Cooperstown—the commencement of a new and prosperous era ; of a steady increase in population.

1851.—The first regular “local department” appeared in the *Freeman's Journal* in August, when its present Editor assumed control of that paper. One of the first topics introduced was the practicality of establishing a large “Summer Hotel” at this place.

In the month of August Mr. H. C. Hepburn came here to consult citizens in regard to forming a telegraph company, to construct a line to Fort Plain. He met with a reception so favorable to his proposed enterprise, that the necessary stock was subscribed, and the work commenced the following month. It was completed the first week in November, and Mr. H. S. Babcock—who for many years held the office of Justice of the Peace—became the first operator. It at that time cost fifty cents to send a message of ten words to New York ; the present charge is 25 cents.

It was the custom of Judge Nelson, of the U. S. Supreme Court, to occasionally hold a term of the Circuit in this village during his summer vacation, to accommodate those attorneys and parties who might be interested in some important suit. This always brought to Cooperstown a number of the most distinguished lawyers in the country. He held court in August of this year, and the array of eminent talent present was very large. The same thing occurred in succeeding years.

The yacht “*Flying Cloud*,” owned by Capt. Boden, was launched on Otsego lake July 30, and long remained a favorite with those who enjoyed a sail on these waters.

At that time contemplating the purchase of a country seat in some pleasant village, Gov. Marcy came here in August of this year, with his wife and daughter, especially to view the Woodside property, then for sale, and owned by Mrs. Judge Morehouse. He was pleased with it, and with the idea of locating here ; but Mrs. Marcy said the long stage-ride of 26 miles was rather too great a tax, and the Governor deferred to her views in the matter. A large picnic was given at the Point, by Judge Nelson and other prominent citizens, in honor of Gov. Marcy and his family. Crumwell's band furnished the music

—and the leader, a colored man named John Crumwell, is still living and playing at dancing parties in this and neighboring counties.

For the first eight days in September, the mercury ranged from 88 to 94 degrees. The winter of 1851-'52 was a very cold one.

1852.—Cooperstown, still leading in newspaper enterprise, saw the erection of its first steam power press, for the *Journal*, in January—the only one then in this, or either of the seven adjoining counties, with the exception of Oneida. Now there are twelve such newspaper presses running in this county, and probably over forty in the district mentioned.

In February of this year, a public meeting in aid of the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad was held in this village. Wm. H. Averill, Esq., presiding, on which occasion Cooperstown made a very liberal subscription to this enterprise, amounting to several thousand dollars.

Dr. Horace Lathrop opened an office in Cooperstown, in March, and he is now the oldest resident physician of the place.

In July, G. W. Ryckman, Jr., bought the "Hall," the old Cooper residence, and two lots near, with a view of fitting it up as a summer hotel. Early the next year a large corps of workmen was employed to remodel and enlarge this building, and in July it was opened to the public. Its career as a hotel was very short, however, as in October of the same year it was destroyed by fire, probably the work of an incendiary. It carried an insurance of \$32,500, and some of the companies interested resisted payment, but finally comprised by paying about two-thirds of their risks.

This year also witnessed the erection of the Clerk's and Surrogate's office, a brick building which stood near the old Court House. It was taken down when the present Court House was built, in 1880.

As late as this year many men were engaged in making boots and shoes in this village, as we read that 25 journeymen shoemakers were on a strike for higher wages, in August. Now, 1886, not a pair of boots, and seldom a pair of shoes, is made on this corporation. The few journeymen remaining—at the head of whom stands the veteran Sam'l W. Bingham—being wholly employed in mending.

1853.—A suggestion appears in the *Journal*, in January of this year, that inasmuch as the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad is likely to be constructed, a branch should be built from Cooperstown to connect with it. The first steps were taken ten years later.

In the same month the suggestion of building a large Seminary of learning in Cooperstown was first made, the outcome of which was that in the following December a public meeting was held, to take steps to establish such an institution at this place. A committee of

ten was appointed to take the matter in charge. Further meetings were held during the winter to push along the enterprise, and subscription books were opened in January. The village—outside the Methodist denomination—was asked to subscribe \$15,000. On the 28th of March, 1854, the following committee was appointed to attend the Otsego Methodist Association for the purpose of hearing propositions from that body: F. A. Lee, G. A. Starkweather, W. H. Averell, Robert Davis, J. M. Peak, L. C. Turner, S. M. Shaw—all of whom except the last named have since died. The committee, at a subsequent meeting, reported that an arrangement had been made with that body of Christians to take control of the Seminary—they to raise at least \$15,000, and outsiders \$20,000. The work went on, and 21 Trustees were chosen on the 11th April. The Board organized as follows: Elihu Phinney, Sen., President, G. A. Starkweather, Vice President, S. M. Shaw, Secretary, F. A. Lee, Treasurer. The contract for the building was let to L. M. Bolles, June 1. The following gentlemen comprised the first Board of Trustees: Elihu Phinney, George A. Starkweather, George W. Erist, Cutler Fields, S. M. Shaw, A. E. Daniels, Lyman Smith, Calvin Graves, F. A. Lee, Ellery Cory, Levi C. Turner, Robert Davis, Robert H. Weeks, J. G. Bush, Rev. Charles Blakeslee and Rev. Isaac Parks of Cooperstown, Caleb Clark of Middlefield, John Young of Springfield, John Cook of Westford, F. H. Bissell of Hartwick, Joseph Russell of Milford.

In July of the following year the main building was raised, and in November occurred the dedication, Bishop Simpson making the principal address. The same week witnessed its opening with a full corps of teachers and nearly as many pupils as it could accommodate. In a short time, the school overflowed with boarders—of whom there were nearly 300—and many found board in private families in the village. The first principal was Rev. Mr. McKown. He retired from the position in 1855. Rev. P. D. Hammond was his successor as principal, in August of the same year. In June, 1856, the building was leased for five years by Messrs. Hammond and Pomeroy. In February 1857, Rev. C. R. Pomeroy became sole principal. At this time the debt on the seminary was about \$23,000. It was closed in the following spring, and remained so until September, 1859, when it was purchased by Mr. R. C. Flack, assisted by a loan of \$5,000 from the citizens of Cooperstown, without interest, as long as he keeps the school in operation. It was reopened by Mr. Flack, November 11, 1859.

The Methodist Church of this county was shown to be prosperous, by a report of 32 churches, 11 parsonages, 24 traveling and local preachers, and 3,059 members.

This year reports the organization of the "Bank of Cooperstown,"

in January. Mr. Frederick A. Lee was the originator of this enterprise, and was the first Cashier of the bank. Mr. Calvin Graves was its first President, and Mr. Theodore Keese its first Vice-President. All the original directors of this bank are dead.

During this year extensive repairs were made on Christ Church, and the building was enlarged.

1854.—On the 21st of March an anti-Nebraska meeting was held at the Court House, presided over by Judge Hammond of Cherry Valley.

The Fourth of July was celebrated at the Point, and Mr. Andrew Barber, editor of the *Republican*, delivered the oration.

At the Annual County Fair held in the village in October of this year, Dr. E. P. Byram delivered the address. The Doctor is still a resident of Cooperstown.

As a greater precaution against fire, additional hydrants were placed in the streets by the village Trustees, in November.

A praiseworthy movement, during the winter of this year, was a course of free lectures given by some of the town's literati. They were largely attended, and were of much interest. The same thing was done in succeeding years.

On the night of October 14, the house of Mr. Holder Cory was entered by a burglar, who stabbed Mr. C. in the left breast, but the knife struck a bone, and the wound was not a serious one.

On the 12th December, there was held in the Presbyterian church of this village, the first Musical Convention, lasting four days and closing with a concert, ever held in this place; it was the second one ever held in this section of the State—the first one having occurred two months earlier at Gilbertsville. Both were held mainly through the efforts of Mr. Alfred P. Hayden, formerly of Middlefield. Prof. Wm. B. Bradbury of New York, was the conductor on both occasions.

1855.—The establishment of the "Worthington Bank," by Mr. J. R. Worthington, with a capital of \$50,000, was announced in January.

During this year Mr. Levi C. Turner was a regular contributor to the *Journal*, over the signature of "Otsego." He was an easy, fluent writer, who had seen much of the world.

In May, one of the best stage routes in the Union was established between Cooperstown and Fort Plain, by A. A. Kendall & Co., who had recently bought this line. For several years it did a large business.

The distillery of Mr. William Brooks, near this village, was destroyed by fire in June, and the business was then closed.

The death of Andrew M. Barber, editor of the *Otsego Republican*, occurred, after an illness of some weeks, in the latter part of August.

He was a man of pleasant, genial temperament, and had drawn about him a large circle of friends in the community and county. He left a widow, but no children. The Republican office then passed into the hands of Mr. George W. Ernst, as chairman of the Whig County Committee, and it was consolidated with the Democrat, owned by Mr. Hendricks. Mr. L. C. Turner was employed as its editor, until Mr. Wood went into the concern.

A noteworthy circumstance was the fall of six to eight inches of snow in early October, causing serious damage to fruit trees, etc. A man, in a state of partial intoxication, was frozen to death in the northern part of the town. He had been in attendance at the county fair, and was on his way home.

The example of the previous winter was followed by a similar course of lectures, by home talent. F. A. Lee's being the initial effort of the season, followed by Dr. Lathrop, Rev. Mr. McHarg, G. Pomeroy Keese, Levi C. Turner, S. M. Shaw, and others.

In December a farmers' convention was held here, in which sixteen towns were represented, the object being the re-organization of the County Agricultural Society. H. Roseboom was appointed chairman, and F. M. Rotch of Morris was elected the first President, of the Society.

1856.—On the 10th of January, the stores with dwellings above, of G. M. Grant and N. W. Cole, on Pioneer street, were destroyed by fire. Mr. Kipp's residence was also injured.

In April and the following month, the Empire House was enlarged and improved by Gen. Brown; a third story was added.

The travel had so increased that in May, Kendall & Co. put on a noon line of stages, to run on the east side of the Lake.

In June, Hon. Joseph L. White purchased Woodside, of Mrs. Morehouse, and took up his residence there.

Mainly through the efforts of Mr. F. A. Lee, ground was purchased, and "Lakewood Cemetery Association" formed. The grounds were dedicated in the presence of a large concourse of people, in September of '57. It has proved of great and lasting benefit.

In August, Jerome B. Wood, Esq., purchased one-half interest in the Democrat and Republican, and became co-editor with J. I. Hendryx. He was a very pleasant and scholarly gentleman, but active politics were distasteful to him.

In the early fall, Mr. Edward Clark of New York purchased the "Apple Hill" property, on which, a few years later, he erected the most elegant and costly mansion, by far, in this section of the State; also a magnificent stone bath-house, stables, green-houses, &c.

As a new thing for this locality, the Democrats held a "barbecue" here, in September—an ox being roasted whole, in the grove then standing above the Court House.

In September, after a painful illness of two and a half years, which confined her to her bed and lounge, Mrs. S. M. Shaw was taken to her parents' house in Albany, where she remained for six years, under the care of leading physicians of that city. She was conveyed to Fort Plain on a spring couch made for that purpose, and which was the next morning placed in a special coach kindly put at our disposal by the Superintendent of the Central railroad—all under supervision of her kind medical attendant, Dr. H. Lathrop, who accompanied the party to Albany.

1857.—January 22 made about the coldest mark on record, the mercury going down to 32 below zero.

Much damage was done to trees and buildings, in April of this year, when snow fell to a depth of twenty to thirty-six inches, on the 14th, and about five feet in three days. A great many barns and sheds, and a few dwellings, were broken down by the weight of the snow.

On the night of December 28, all the prisoners confined in the county jail made their escape; quite an easy matter, owing to the general discreditable dilapidation of that building. It was presented by the grand jury as a nuisance, the following month.

1858.—Alonzo Bowen was drowned by breaking through the ice in the Lake, January 13th.

The upper part of the dwelling of widow Zenas Chapman, was destroyed by fire on the noon of March 12; and by the gratuitous labor of the kind-hearted villagers, a new roof was placed on the cottage before night of the same day.

In April, a small steamboat was placed on the Lake, but being found rather an unsatisfactory craft, its trips were discontinued after a few cruises.

The appointment of R. R. Nelson, Esq. to the U. S. District Judgeship of Minnesota, and the confirmation of this appointment by the Senate, occurred in May.

In May, the old Spanish shillings, sixpences and quarters disappeared, as those silver coins were then tabooed, and refused as a circulating medium, both here and elsewhere.

J. B. Wood, Esq., severed his connection with the Republican, in June, retiring from journalism to resume the practice of his profession—the law.

The hat and fur business, commenced about sixty years before by

Ralph Worthington, and which, since his death, in 1828, had been continued by his son, John R. Worthington, was discontinued in the latter part of this year, and the stock in trade was advertised to be sold at cost.

Good old Judge Kinne, the friend of every man, had his hotel room entered one night in September, and his valuable gold watch and some money stolen.

1859.—Lieut. Orren Chapman, who had served an apprenticeship in the Journal office, and afterwards graduated from West Point Academy, died in St. Louis on the 6th of January. He left relatives in this village.

In June, Patrick McNamara, on trial for the murder of his wife, at Richfield, was found guilty of manslaughter in the first degree, and was sentenced to imprisonment for life.

The store of E. & H. Cory was broken into, and the safe robbed of \$30, on the night of August 5.

The "Burgess block" of stores, situated about where the Postoffice now stands, was completed in the fall, the third story being set apart for a public hall—then the only one in the village. It would seat about 200 people comfortably.

The well-known "postrider," Jared Gardner, who had carried the village papers to certain southwestern towns for about 14 years, relinquished the route in November, when he was 79 years old.

1860.—The early part of this year recorded the completion of the Cooper monument, in Lakewood Cemetery, by the addition of the graceful statuette of Leatherstocking, which crowns the shaft. This monument was erected as a tribute to his memory, by friends and admirers of the great novelist, and has been the object of many pilgrimages by those attracted by the name and fame of Cooper, as well as by its graceful proportions. A special article on it will appear elsewhere in this book.

A great array of legal talent sojourned in the village during the arguing of the Sewing Machine cases before Judges Nelson and Smalley, in the month of June. In August the Judge decided in favor of the Wilson feed patent.

Dr. F. U. Johnston of New York, purchased the farm of 160 acres belonging to Elisha Doubleday, in September, and made his residence here for several years, until his purchase of the house on River street, which is still in his possession. Cooperstown lost one of her best citizens on his removal to Westchester county a few years since.

The Universalist society remodeled their house of worship, and placed a bell in the tower, in the fall of this year.

A friendly political discussion was held at the Court House, October 19th, the antagonists in this "war of words" being Hon. Joseph L. White and Levi C. Turner, Esq. The former took the Democratic, and the latter the Whig side, in the debate.

An interesting murder trial was in progress in December of this year, a Mrs. McCraney of Oneonta being accused of the murder of her step-daughter. She was acquitted of the charge, her defense being conducted by L. L. Bundy and L. S. Chatfield; District Attorney Countryman was assisted (a very little) by Attorney-General Myers.

CHAPTER X.

FROM 1861 TO 1871.

This period was perhaps the most important in the history of this country, as it witnessed the rise, progress and close of the great Civil War. Men here, as elsewhere, saw the cloud gathering with feelings of mingled sorrow, apprehension and alarm; they were divided in opinion as to the causes which led to the war; and party feeling, before actual hostilities commenced, very naturally strongly held sway over the minds of men who were active in political life. But all this changed when Fort Sumter was fired upon—our community was united as one man in patriotic feeling for the Union. Few places of its size did more to sustain its cause. In this decade, also, occurred the most decided advance in growth and prosperity ever witnessed by Cooperstown. The coming here, about that period, of such wealthy men as Edward Clark, Henry F. Phinney, George L. Bowne, and Jedediah P. Sill, and the intelligent use they made of ample capital and well-directed enterprise, together with what was done in the same line by some of the older residents of the village, told most favorably on the growth and prosperity of Cooperstown. The Cooperstown railroad was built and opened for travel; a steamer was placed on the lake; the Union School and new Catholic church were built; the Susquehanna at the outlet was spanned by a new iron bridge that cost upwards of \$12,000; a "Village Improvement Society" was organized, which did much good work; scores of new, and many of them costly and elegant, dwellings, and stores and public buildings, were erected. We narrate the progress of events more in detail:

1861.—Extensive improvements were made, during the month of February, on the Presbyterian church edifice, and those begun a few months previous on the Universalist church, completed during the same month.

Col. John H. Prentiss appeared for the last time in public life in February of this year, when he went to a State Convention held at Albany to consider the state of the nation, as one of the four delegates appointed to represent this Assembly District. His health began to fail in the spring, and he died June 26. Thus passed away another of the men of rank of Cooperstown. He represented this District two terms in Congress, and was for 41 years editor of the

Freeman's Journal. He was President of the Second National Bank at the time of his death.

Mr. E. S. Coffin was appointed Postmaster of this village in March.

During the spring, many Union Meetings, for the purpose of sustaining the loyal cause, were held throughout the entire county, and were addressed by active Democrats and Republicans, eliciting great interest and enthusiasm.

In May there was a subscription circulated for aid in forming a military company, to which there was a generous response.

In the latter part of May, the ladies of Cooperstown generously volunteered to furnish 1,000 "Havelocks" for soldiers in service near Washington. This was followed by other similar work on their behalf.

The streets of Cooperstown, which had hitherto been illuminated only by the "dim religious light" which a few oil lamps afforded, very gladly welcomed the introduction of gas, for which a petition had been in circulation in June of this year.

The benevolence of our citizens was again exhibited in August, by a subscription of \$300 in aid of sick and wounded soldiers.

In the latter part of this month, forty volunteers left Cooperstown to join the van-guard rifle regiment.

A great outrage was perpetrated here in September, in the arrest of Mr. George L. Bowne, a native of this town, who resided in Florida at the outbreak of the war, and who had voted against secession in the legislature of that State. Moved by some representations made by an enemy—or by some person seeking to make money out of the affair—the authorities at Washington sent an officer here to arrest Mr. Bowne and convey him to Fort Lafayette. The affair created great excitement and much hard feeling. Mr. Bowne, who was in rather poor health at the time, was released after a confinement of two weeks. He built the "iron-clad" block, in which this book was printed, and put up the building on Lake street now owned by Mr. E. F. Beadle.

1862.—For the first time in a number of years, there was a general celebration of Washington's birthday, and the Rev. S. T. Livermore read the notable Farewell Address.

On the night of the 10th of April occurred a great conflagration, that destroyed at least one-third of the business portion of Cooperstown. The alarm was sounded at half-past 10 o'clock, and the unequal battle with the flames lasted till near daylight. The fire originated in the cabinet shop of E. Edwards, near the Cory store building, and it swept away all the stores and shops on that side of Main street, except the latter, from W. G. Smith's east to Pioneer street ;

by desperate efforts it was prevented from crossing the latter street, though the buildings on the two opposite corners were several times on fire. It then crossed Main street, destroyed three hotels and other buildings, and extended up the west side of Pioneer street as far as Mr. Phinney's house. Fortunately there was no strong wind blowing at the time, indeed it was perfectly quiet till 2 o'clock in the morning, or a much greater damage would have been inflicted on the village. We never saw firemen work with more hearty zeal or intelligence than were displayed on this occasion; and men and women aided in passing buckets of water, and in removing and caring for furniture and goods. The following is a list of the number of buildings burned, the number of occupants, value and insurance :

Owners.	Build- ings.	No. of occupants.	Value.	Insurance.
L. J. Walworth,.....	2	3	\$3,000	.....
H. Groat,.....	3	1	2,000	\$1,000
D. Peck,.....	3	1	2,000	1,000
Kipp & Grant,.....	2	2	2,500	.....
J. H. Burgess,.....	3	5	4,000	3,000
Wm. Lewis,.....	6	1	7,000	2,000
W. Van Booskirk,.....	1	1	1,200	.....
W. C. Keyes,.....	6	3	4,000	.....
Mrs. Carr,.....	2	1	2,000	.....
Z. Willoughby,.....	1	..	150	.....
A. Robinson,.....	1	2	1,000	800
L. Brown,.....	3	3	1,200	.....
E. & H. Cory,.....	2	1	1,500	.....
J. F. Scott & Co.,.....	2	1	2,500	1,000
J. J. Short,.....	2	2	1,700	.....
E. & H. Cory,.....	3	1	500	.....
J. Wood,.....	3	1	1,500	.....
Bingham & Jarvis,.....	3	2	4,000	2,000
H. Hollister,.....	2	2	2,200	.....
S. Nelson,.....	3	2	5,000	2,500
H. N. Robinson,.....	1	5	1,800	1,200
McNamee's estate,.....	3	..	500	.....
Other property, damaged about...	.	..	1,500	.....
Total,.....	57	40	\$52,750	\$14,500

Some of the parties interested, placed their losses somewhat higher than the above. On the other hand, most of those lots made vacant by the fire, were thus largely increased in value.

The losses on personal property at this fire were given at the time as follows :

E. & H. Cory,.....	\$5,000	A. Robinson,.....	\$ 350
Edward Edwards,.....	2,300	Daniel Peck,.....	500
H. Holister,.....	300	John J. Short,.....	1,500
G. M. Grant & Co.,.....	1,200	Geo. Jarvis,.....	200
J. G. Cooke,.....	1,200	Mrs. Sherman,.....	150
W. C. Keyes,.....	1,200	John Wood,.....	500
Mrs. Carr,.....	1,000	Loomis Brown,.....	300
Harmon Groat,.....	500	W. G. S. Hall,.....	1,300
Lewis Bundy,	200	Wm. Lewis,.....	3,000
Bingham & Jarvis,.....	3,500	John Burgess,.....	300
H. N. Robinson,.....	800	B. F. Kipp,.....	800
C. R. Burch,.....	100	Others, tenants,.....	1,300

Total,.....\$27,500

Messrs. A. Robinson, H. N. Robinson, Peck, Burch, were fully insured, and Bingham & Jarvis for \$1,500.

Total direct loss by this conflagration, about \$80,250 ; insurance \$17,750. The incidental loss was also considerable.

On the Monday night following this conflagration, a fire caught in the barn of the Otsego Hotel, corner of Main and Fair streets, and that entire property, and the dwelling house and barn of Mr. William K. Bingham, were destroyed. The total loss was about \$10,000 ; insurance \$4,000. The hotel was owned by H. B. Ernst. For a time this second fire cast an additional gloom over the village. Now, only one hotel, the Empire House, was left standing in Cooperstown.

What was at first very naturally regarded as a public calamity, in which individuals suffered considerable loss—though only a few of them were unable easily to bear it—in the end proved of great and lasting benefit to the place. It afforded an opportunity to make Main street of uniform width throughout its entire length—a great and very desirable improvement. The expense was largely met by private subscription. And then followed the erection of the Central Hotel, the “Iron Clad” and other fine brick and stone buildings on Main street, the Clinton House and Mr. Kipp’s large brick house on Pioneer street, the Nelson block of stores, corner of Main and Chestnut streets, and other improvements. Cooperstown “arose from her ashes” a new and far more beautiful town—and still the improvements are gradually going on as store after store follows the Bundy block on the old “Eagle Hotel lot.”

On the 25th of April, a public meeting was held in the Court

House, at which steps were taken to collect funds to aid those few persons who had been impoverished by the recent fires.

The buildings burned were located as follows: L. J. Walworth's dwelling, on a lot now embraced in the grounds of Elihu Phinney; Harmon Groat's building, once occupied as a piano factory, on lot now occupied by F. Carroll's paint shop; Daniel Peck's hotel, on the present Clinton House grounds; B. F. Kipp's dwelling, next north; J. H. Burgess, north of alley between him and Kipp, three shops and Hall above, on ground once occupied by Stephen Gregory's old shoe manufactory and a small residence; the Eagle Hotel on the corner, now occupied, together with a portion of the Burgess lot, by the Bundy block; a wooden building owned by Wm. Van Buskirk, and occupied by W. G. S. Hall as a saloon, next west of the Eagle hotel, now occupied by brick stores; W. C. Keyes' hotel, once known as the Isaac Fitch hotel, on which the Central hotel now stands; Carr's hotel, once called the Widow Fitch hotel, now partly occupied by the Bowen block and the vacant lot east; the present Carr's hotel stands partly on the Esek Bradford card factory lot, and partly on the Judge Foote lot, whose residence forms a part of that house. On the north side of Main street, A. Robinson's "town pump grocery," rebuilt; Loomis Brown's building, occupied as a bakery, and residence above, not rebuilt; E. & H. Cory's shop, occupied by E. Edwards, part of lot vacant, partly occupied by W. E. Cory's store; J. F. Scott & Co., store, stood next east; John J. Short, store and residence, next east; E. & H. Cory's shop, barns and sheds, in rear of stone building now owned by A. J. Wikoff; John Wood, market and dwelling stood on same ground now occupied by him; Bingham & Jarvis and H. Hollister, two stores, now occupied by "iron clad" building; S. Nelson, two stores, occupied by Grant & Co. and Joseph G. Cooke, next adjoining on the east; H. N. Robinson, stores occupied by self and C. R. Burch, corner Main and Pioneer streets.

The buildings which were erected on the burnt district within about a year after the fire, were as follows: Double brick building, corner of Main and Pioneer streets, by H. N. Robinson, afterwards purchased by J. H. Story, now owned by his sister Mrs. Wm. F. Taylor of Binghamton; two brick buildings adjoining on the west, by the late Judge Nelson, and still owned by his estate; the large and elegant brick building, with iron front, two stores, offices and public Hall, with brick bakery in rear, by George L. Bowne, now owned by Asahel A. Jarvis; a handsome stone building, dwelling and market, by John Wood, and still occupied by him; a double frame building, with brick front, for two stores and dwelling, by John J. Short, who still occupies the dwelling part; a brick building

by John F. Scott, who still occupies the upper stories in his hop and wool business; a brick store by E. & H. Cory, who were succeeded by the present occupant, Wm. E. Cory; a frame building, called the "town pump grocery," by A. Robinson, which has several times changed hands, and was recently purchased and remodeled by the present occupant, Harmon Groat. On the south side of Main street, the Central Hotel and Carr's Hotel—the former wholly new, the latter in part a dwelling owned by Mrs. Carr which escaped the flames. The "Bowen block," two stores and offices, was put up by the law firm of Countryman & Bowen, in 1875-'76. In 1880 the Bundy Brothers put up their double brick building, bank, store and postoffice, on a part of the old Eagle Hotel lot; G. M. Grant & Co. put up their building adjoining, the year following; then in '82 J. Warren Lamb & Co. put up a similar building adjoining; followed by George L. White by his brick furniture store the next year. Two additional similar buildings adjoining on the west, are to be erected in the spring of 1886—one by Charles E. Moore as a grocery store, and one by Wm. H. Michaels as a market and dwelling. South of the postoffice, on Pioneer street, Benj. F. Kipp put up a large brick dwelling in 1862, and Daniel Peck built the Clinton House, hotel, in 1867, and it was opened for business in the fall.

On the 16th of May, a small dwelling house on Bay street owned by Winchester Childs was destroyed by fire. His loss was partly made up by the donations of a few liberal-hearted citizens.

In the month of July the Catholic Society of this village purchased ground for a cemetery on the hill west of the village, now owned by them. The consecration of the same, took place with imposing ceremonies on the first of August.

On the 28th of July, a large war meeting was held at the Court House, over which Judge Campbell of Cherry Valley presided. Addresses were made by Hezekiah Sturges, Esq., and Judge Graves of Herkimer.

In this year the government was making calls for large numbers of troops. The first meeting held for the purpose of voting a town bounty to Volunteers was held in the Court House, on the 8th of August, and \$25 was voted. On the 29th of the same month the bounty was increased to \$100.

On the 12th of September, Carr's Hotel was reopened for business, having in a large degree been rebuilt since the fire.

Silver change had become so scarce at this time, that the Worthington bank issued a large amount of small fractional notes. These were counterfeited at a later day, and the genuine were called in. Soon after this the government issued fractional notes, as low as three cents.

So many persons had engaged in this business that the government wholly interdicted it.

Dr Lathrop and E. M. Harris, Esq., were appointed commissioners for examining the men subject to draft into the military service of the government. They were kept very busy at this work through the month of October.

In November, Edwin M. Harris, Esq., was appointed County Judge, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. Levi C. Turner, who had accepted a position at Washington, under Judge Advocate-General Holt. Mr. Turner died in Washington, while holding this office, March 14, 1867, aged 61 years.

1863.—A new firm announced this spring, that of Cockett & Murdock—Mr. Harvey Marvin, late with the former, having died.

On the 1st of April, Judge Nelson started the "up-street" movement, then so much discussed among business men, by breaking ground for his brick block of two stores, corner of Main and Chestnut streets.

A great laugh was raised in the village one day in April, when it was made known that a couple of desperate fellows in the old county jail had made their escape, after locking in the Sheriff and Dr. Thos. B. Smith, physician to the jail!

The residence on Chestnut street, occupied by Rev. G. T. Wright, was destroyed by fire on the night of April 27—Mr. Wright losing considerable personal property.

Here, as elsewhere, the 30th of April was a gloomy day, being generally observed as a day of National Fasting and Prayer.

On the 1st of May, after the passage of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad bill, which was finally approved by the Governor, (Horatio Seymour,) a public meeting was held in this village to consider the matter of building a branch road, to connect with it. On this occasion L. J. Walworth presided, and W. H. Bunn was secretary. The meeting was addressed by Engineer Edgerton, S. M. Shaw, and L. J. Walworth; a committee was appointed, with L. I. Burditt as chairman, to take further action. In February, 1865, another meeting organized a company, which elected the following gentlemen a first Board of Directors: L. I. Burditt, Wm. M. Clinton, Rufus Steere, J. P. Silk, G. W. Ernst, J. F. Scott, Calvin Graves, J. W. Shipman, Geo. L. Bowne, Wm. Brooks, J. H. Story, Ellery Cory, and Dorr Russell; \$250,000 was subscribed and ten per cent. of that amount paid in. In May of the same year the following officers were chosen at a meeting of the Directors: Luther I. Burditt, president; Joshua H. Story, vice president; George A. Starkweather,

secretary; John F. Scott, treasurer. Surveying was commenced in November.

The 50th anniversary of the Otsego County Bible Society, of which Mr. F. A. Lee was then president, was held in the Presbyterian church, on the 16th of June.

On the 21st of August, Cooperstown was visited by a distinguished party of gentlemen, led by Secretary Seward, and including the following Foreign Ministers: Lord Lyons of England, Baron Gerolt of Prussia, M. Molina of Nicaragua, M. Tassara of Spain, Baron Stroeckel of Russia, M. Mercier of France, together with the representatives of Italy, Sweden and Chili, and several Secretaries and attaches of the different legations. They were handsomely entertained by different prominent citizens of the place, and they were entertained together at one of the Points on the Lake. On leaving they expressed themselves as very favorably impressed.

In August of this year there was great excitement, here and elsewhere, over the draft for this District, which took place in Norwich. Otsego county was called upon to furnish 985 men for the army. And then, too, there was an "income tax" to pay, for the first time, in the fall.

E. & H. Cory were among those who built new stores this year, and they changed from the old stone store, which had escaped the flames, and which they had occupied for 34 years.

To help the unfortunate ones "out of the draft," the bounty offered by the town of Otsego, for Volunteers, was increased to \$600 in December—when notice was given that the quota of the county, under the next draft, would be 693 men.

1864.—In the latter part of January the Catholic society added about \$400 to their church fund, the net proceeds of a successful festival held at that time.

The three Banks of the village decided in the early part of the year to adopt the "National" system.

Washington's Birthday was the occasion of a benevolent action on the part of some of our farmers, in generously donating wood to certain poor widows of this place.

The announcement of a new telegraph line to Herkimer, via Richfield, was made on the 1st of March. It has lately passed under the control of the great Western Union.

The patriotic and enterprising ladies of Cooperstown netted \$557 from a fair held under their auspices, for the benefit of the soldiers, in July.

On the 4th of August, a National Fast was observed by a Union

Service, the Rev. W. N. Newell of the Presbyterian church preaching the sermon.

In September the army quota of the town of Otsego was filled, and no drafted men were sent. The bounty had been raised to \$1,025, for the war; and in December the town bounty was increased to \$800 for "three years' men."

Gov. Seymour, who was the Democratic Presidential candidate this year, addressed a political mass-meeting in this village, in Oct.

1865.—Lieut. Morris Foote returned to his home in Cooperstown, in January, having happily made his escape from a rebel prison. His brother, Frank Foote lost a leg in the battle of the Wilderness, and was for a long time thought to have been killed.

In February, G. A. Starkweather, Esq., after a residence of about nine years in Milwaukee, returned to Cooperstown, his former residence, and resumed the practice of the law.

Cooperstown Seminary was purchased in February by Wm. M. Clinton, who repaired the building with a large outlay, and in the month following, Mr. R. C. Flack retired from his management of the institution, of about five years' duration, Prof. George Kerr, a most successful instructor, assuming charge as principal on the opening of the spring term in April, with a greatly improved and newly furnished building, and a large attendance of scholars. Mr. Clinton sunk a large sum of money in this venture.

In April occurred an impromptu celebration of the "Capture of Richmond," the program consisting simply of the usual demonstrations of victory—ringing of bells, firing of guns, and blazing bonfires. A little later in the month, the rejoicing at the surrender of Gen. Lee was manifested by a similar celebration. There was great joy manifested.

In the latter part of the month, Cooperstown was shrouded in gloom at the melancholy death of President Lincoln. Appropriate religious services were held on the 21st, in Bowne Hall, and a funeral oration delivered by Rev. C. K. McHarg.

The first day of June was observed as an occasion of humiliation and mourning on account of the assassination of the President. A union service was held in the Presbyterian church.

The patriotism of our citizens was evinced by quite an elaborate celebration of the 89th anniversary of American Independence, there being a procession, oration, etc., during the day, and a fine display of fireworks in the evening. Wm. H. Averell, Esq., was President of the Day; Geo. W. Ernst, Marshal; Hon. Geo. H. Andrews, Orator; Rev. C. K. McHarg, Reader; Rev. E. R. Sawyer, Chaplain.

A building in the rear of the Seminary, used as laundry and wash-house, was burned in the latter part of September; the loss was about \$3,500.

The "Pioneer Boat Club," organized in September, comprised about twenty-five such "young fellows" as Dr. Lathrop, D. A. Avery, B. F. Murdock, Rev. C. K. McHarg, S. G. Browning, Rev. E. R. Sawyer, F. G. Lee, S. M. Shaw, Dr. Blodgett, S. A. Bowen, Capt. P. P. Cooper, W. H. Ruggles, G. P. Keese, E. Phinney, John Worthington, and others. Most of them became very expert, the following summer, in "catching crabs" in their costly and elegant six-oared cedar boat—which was not put into water after the second season, and was finally sold for about what the oars cost!

1866.—The purchase of the Phoenix Factory by Mr. John F. Scott was announced in January. He expended about \$75,000 in improvements on this property, which he fitted up as a woolen manufactory; but the venture proved unfortunate.

Another free lecture course was in progress during the winter months of this year.

Several deaths from that terrible disease "spotted fever," occurred here during the spring.

Principally through the efforts of Miss Susan F. Cooper, a "Thanksgiving Hospital" was established, or rather efforts were begun for its establishment, by the people of the village, among whom a subscription list was circulated, in July. A brief history of this institution occurs elsewhere.

On the last day of July, a sad accident was recorded, the drowning in Otsego lake of a young son of the Rev. Dr. Alfred B. Beach of New York, then a visitor here.

St. Mary's Catholic society of Cooperstown broke ground for their new brick edifice in October.

The report of the Supervisor of the town of Otsego, in November, showed that this town had paid for bounties, during the late war, \$184,068.75—about one-half of which fell upon this village.

The "Young Men's Association of Cooperstown" organized, with E. Phinney president. One thousand dollars were subscribed and expended; a fine room rented and handsomely furnished; a library established, magazines and newspapers obtained. But the "young men," as a body, took very little interest in the society, we are compelled to record, and it languished and finally died, at the end of a few years.

1867.—The reading rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association was opened on the first of February.

Rev. Dr. Kerr, after a successful principalship of two years, retired from his connection with the Seminary, and Mr. Clinton leased the building to his brother-in-law, Rev. Orren Perkins, who opened the spring term, in March, and continued it as a school for about two years, when its career as such closed. Dr. Kerr died here on the 13th of that month.

Quite a notable tea-party was that held at the residence of Capt. Cooper in March of this year, on which occasion the united ages of the ten ladies present were 703 years—the eldest, 82, the youngest, 60; and their descendents numbered 182 persons. The following were the ladies present: Mrs. Pope, Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Mrs. Calvin Graves, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Luther Blodgett, Mrs. Levi H. Pierce, Mrs. Martha Murdock, Mrs. S. Van Sice, Mrs. Richard Cooley, Mrs. Sam'l W. Bingham.

On the last day of May, a meeting was held to discuss the condition of the bridge over the Susquehanna, and the desirability of building a new and substantial one, the cost of which was estimated at about \$12,000. The project was carried to a successful result.

The corner stone of St. Mary's Catholic church, ground for which had been broken about nine months previous, was laid with imposing ceremonies in June. Its dedication occurred in December, Bishop Conroy preaching the sermon.

Carelessness with fire-arms was then not so common a cause of serious accident, it seems, as at the present time, but one instance is recorded in August of this year, when a young German man-servant employed in one of the families of the village, with great recklessness, pointed a gun, not supposing it loaded, at a female servant, and discharging it, killed her instantly. The fellow got off without the punishment which many thought he deserved.

A fair was held in August, for the benefit of the proposed "Thanksgiving Hospital," the gross receipts of which were \$940. This successful venture led to the dedication of the Hospital in November of the same year.

Three Mile Point was the scene of a merry-making on the 30th of August, when an old-fashioned lake party assembled there, attended by several of the "Old Guard," such as Messrs. Nichols, Averell, Crippen and Starkweather, and on this as on all similar occasions, the veteran "Joe Tom" was general caterer. Very few such parties have been held there since that time.

The "Clinton House" was completed and opened for business by Daniel Peck, in September. In this he had been aided by J. H. Story and Calvin Graves.

The 15th of October was observed as "General Training Day" at

Cooperstown, Cols. Dunbar and Hubbard being in command, and the two regiments were reviewed by Major General Burnside of the State militia and staff. That ended the "training days" in Cooperstown. In the ranks were a large number of men who had participated in the Civil War.

Several attempts at burglary were made in October of this year, one successful raid being made on the dwelling of I. K. Williams, whose house was entered on the night of Oct. 26th, robbed of \$54, a silver watch, and several other articles.

Ex-Gov. Seymour visited Cooperstown in October, and after a serenade by the Boston Brass Band, he made an address from the piazza of the Empire House. A large number of the villagers called on him to pay their respects.

At a district school meeting held in November, it was resolved that legal steps should be taken for disposing of the two little old wooden buildings and sites then belonging to School District No. 1, town of Otsego, and the proceeds devoted toward the erection of a new brick school building; and that the sum of \$6,000 additional should be raised for the same purpose.

A slight shock of earthquake was experienced in Cooperstown and vicinity, on the 18th of December. It was very sensibly felt by a number of people in the village.

1868.—The 1st of January, the Freeman's Journal appeared enlarged to a nine-column paper. The Republican enlarged to the same size soon after. Neither of these papers has ever adopted the practice, now so common among country newspapers, of using stereotype plates got up for their use in the cities—giving cheaper and poorer reading.

On the 14th of February, a second school meeting was held, at which it was determined to purchase a lot of ground on Susquehanna avenue, and proceed with the erection of a new District School House, in the spring. It was resolved, also, that a tax levy of \$5,000 should be made and the old lots sold at auction. On the 4th of July, work had so far progressed that the corner stone was laid, on which occasion Rev. C. K. McHarg made an appropriate address. The building was finished and the school opened in October of the following year, with an attendance of over 200 pupils. The cost of building and lot was about \$14,000. It was an improvement that was not accomplished without strong opposition; but from the start the school was such a success, that very few indeed regretted its cost. Mr. H. G. Howe was the first principal; Miss Gaylord, preceptress; Miss Ball, assistant. Thomas Clark was chairman of the building committee under whose supervision the school house was erected.

Work was actually begun, in February, 1868, the contract for building the Cooperstown R. R. having been let to James Keenholtz. In February of the next year, the depot was located, and Mr. J. F. Scott succeeded Mr. Burditt as president of the company, and in July the road was opened for business, the event being celebrated by the usual demonstrations of joy, firing of cannon and ringing of bells. The old "Colliersville stage" retired from service, making its farewell trip the day of the opening of the railroad. The town of Otsego bonded in the sum of \$150,000, the town of Middlefield in the sum of \$50,000, and individuals subscribed \$58,405, to aid in the construction of this railroad.

The entrance of March this year was in the traditional lion-like manner, the mercury standing at 22° below zero on the 1st.

The opening to patients of the Thanksgiving Hospital, occurred on the 1st of June.

The summer season of this year was the warmest in more than twenty years, the thermometer ranging for four consecutive days from 91° to 96°; such weather as prompted Sidney Smith to long "to take off his flesh, and sit in his bones."

The long-talked-of hotel on the "Otsego Hotel lot," was announced in August as soon to be built, causing much discussion in the newspapers as to the pros and cons of the project. This building, which financially swamped all the capital expended on it, now standing in its unfinished and slowly decaying state, is known as the "Skeleton Hotel," a very appropriate name. Its cost was about \$57,000, and it was sold at auction to Mr. George Clarke for \$9,000, on the collapse of the unfortunate enterprise. For several years past it has been used for storing hops. The "Otsego Lake Building Association," which constructed it, went into the hands of H. Sturges, Esq., as receiver, in May, 1872.

Our genial legal friend, Counselor George Brooks, paid a rather novel bet, lost on Horatio Seymour, by wheeling a barrel of flour from the Court House to the bridge over the Susquehanna, when, instead of making a hasty retreat, nothing abashed, he mounted the barrel and made a speech. It is thought that this experience cured him of his Democracy, as he has not since then acted with the party in which he was nurtured.

Simon Van Sice was a veteran and pensioner of the war of 1812, having served under Gen. Scott in two or three engagements. On the "golden wedding" anniversary of himself and wife, which occurred in November, they were kindly remembered by their many friends, one from Poughkeepsie sending a substantial gift of \$50. Mrs. Van Sice is now the only person on this corporation drawing a pension for the

services of her husband in "the second war of American independence."

1869.—Mr. Henry F. Phinney had returned to Cooperstown with a handsome fortune, with an increased love for his native village, and with great confidence in its future growth and prosperity, toward which he resolved to devote his time and money. He was a liberal subscriber to every good object and true charity. The Seminary property had passed into the possession of the Second National Bank, by which it was sold to Mr. Phinney in January, and in it he sunk not far from \$65,000. The interior of the building was changed and improved, to fit it for the purposes of a summer hotel; the exterior and the grounds were greatly improved; new outbuildings were erected, and new furniture added. When completed, the building was named the "Cooper House," and it was leased to Charles A. Watkins of Albany, who continued its landlord for two years. He was a popular young man, but he lacked capital, and mainly on that account was not successful in the business.

In January, S. M. Ballard sold the Empire House to J. H. McDonald, of Delaware county, who sold it to Edward Clark and J. H. Story in the spring of 1871; they spent about \$4,000 on it, named it the "St. James," leased it to D. L. Keyes, and it burned down in November, 1872. Loss on building about \$14,000; on furniture, about \$2,500.

In April, there was an unusually heavy fall of rain ($2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in one night) causing the creek running through the village to overflow, carrying away a part of the culvert under Main street and doing a damage of about \$1,000. Other localities were also damaged.

This was a year of great activity among builders and others in Cooperstown. During most of the summer and fall about one hundred carpenters, masons and painters were employed here. Mr. Edward Clark's stone mansion was erected, the first sash and blind factory—the capital for which was furnished by Mr. H. F. Phinney—the school house completed, the Seminary changed to a hotel, and a number of dwellings erected.

In September, Capt. D. B. Boden brought here by railroad a small steamboat, which it was stated had been used as a gunboat in southern waters during the war, carrying a single gun. It attracted no small attention as it was conveyed through Main street on trucks to the dock. It was enlarged and improved, named the "Mary Boden," and placed upon the lake the following summer. The "toot" of its whistle was not very loud, and one day Mr. J. P. Sill—who had been very active in aid of the Cooperstown railroad—joked the Captain on that

fact, who replied : "You wait till I obtain the consent of this village to bond for about \$50,000 for a steamer, and I will show you a steam whistle that will drown the sound of both the locomotive whistles!"

In September, the County Agricultural Society purchased of Spafard & Hooker the 26 acres of land now owned and occupied by the same near the corporation limits.

1870.—An old lady, named Bice, living in an old house opposite the Court House, called "Bull's Head," supposed to be very poor and needy, who had been aided many years by the town, died in January, and \$300 in coin were found among her effects.

A fair, for the benefit of the Cemetery Gateway Fund, held in March, netted \$250.

In March, the old jail was again "presented" by the Grand Jury, and the same month a bill was introduced in the legislature "to facilitate the construction of new county buildings at Cooperstown."

At the opening of the spring term of Union School, Mr. John G. Wight was given the position of Principal—a place so long filled by him, with satisfaction to those most deeply interested in the welfare of the school.

In July, the village Trustees decided on extending Fair street through the "Cooper grounds," and Counselor Brooks was most active in the work. The way extended directly over the foundation walls of the "Hall."

This summer witnessed the presence of a large number of city visitors in Cooperstown—one of the best seasons the village has ever experienced.

A concert and sale for the benefit of the Thanksgiving Hospital, netted about \$400.

Early in September, a "Village Improvement Society" was organized in Cooperstown, for the general purpose of caring for the various points of interest, etc., in the vicinity. It did considerable good work.

The Baptist church of Cooperstown reopened for worship the 1st of September, after having been enlarged and greatly improved at a cost of about \$4,000.

Mr. Keenholtz, the late contractor for building the C. and S. V. R. R., obtained a verdict against the company for \$41,303—the full amount claimed by him as the balance due him. The case was appealed and a new trial granted.

During this year, there were 22 dwellings erected on the corporation, a number of which were put up by Mr. H. F. Phinney.

CHAPTER XI.

FROM 1871 TO 1881.

Although this decade covered an extended season of general hard times throughout the county, Cooperstown experienced very little of its effects; even the individual cases were few among our citizens. The village grew and flourished, 1871 witnessing the erection of about 30 dwellings, including that of Fred. G. Lee on Lake street, afterwards purchased and doubled in size by Mrs. Jane R. Carter, and the completion of the large brick dwelling put up on Main street by Mr. Joshua H. Story at a cost of about \$20,000. A large steamer was put on the lake; the Fire Department was for the first time properly organized, and new apparatus bought; the Hotel Fenimore was built; a large addition made to the Union School building; a new Jail and Sheriff's residence, and then a Court House erected; the threatened bankruptcy of the Cooperstown railroad prevented; the Pioneer Mills erected at a cost of about \$45,000; the Aqueduct Association enlarged its supply of water to meet the growing demands of the village; the census of 1880 showed a gratifying increase in the population of the place. In detail the record shows:

1871.—Mr. George Story, at an expense of several thousand dollars, added a new story to his brick block on Main street, adjoining his brother's new house—all now known as the Ballard House.

In January, the Village Improvement Society of Cooperstown took a lease of Three Mile Point, at a nominal rent, for 25 years, of Mr. Wm. Cooper of Baltimore, who owns that small but valuable piece of lake property.

In the same month Mr. J. R. Worthington sold the circulation of his bank to certain parties in Oneonta, who established the "First National" bank of that village, Mr. Worthington being one of its stockholders and directors. He also continued in business as a private banker in this village.

In the month of April, the old "Bull's Head" property, once kept as a hotel, was demolished by Mr. Phinney. In this hotel, Mr. Thurlow Weed was a boarder while working at his trade as a printer in this village, and there became engaged to be married to the daughter of Mr. Ostrander, then the proprietor, and a few years later they were married. Mr. Weed visited this village the following summer,

when the editor of this book, who had known him for over twenty years, had a long conversation with him in regard to occurrences here while Mr. Weed was a resident.

Dr. Blodgett was appointed P. M. at Cooperstown on the first of May, and remained in office for nearly nine years.

As rather an unusual event, it may be mentioned, that there was a slight fall of snow here on the 7th day of May.

The Cooper House was this year leased to Coleman & Maxwell, who opened it on the 15th of June, and had a very successful season.

The new steamer "Natty Bumppo," owned principally by Messrs. A. H. Watkins and Elihu Phinney, had her trial trip on the 4th day of July. A few days later a set of colors was formally presented the boat by a few citizens of the village.

On the 3d August, Professor Maillefert gave an exhibition of the *modus operandi* of sub-marine blasting, on Lake Otsego, which was witnessed by a large number of highly interested spectators.

The Scotchmen of this village and surrounding country this year organized a society and held their first annual meeting at Threé Mile Point. Addresses were made by Rev. Mr. McHarg of this village, and Hon. Wm. W. Campbell of Cherry Valley. They had a genuine Scotch piper present, who furnished the music.

In October the people of this village showed their sympathy for the sufferers by the great Chicago fire, by contributing about \$800 in money and many useful articles of clothing.

1872.—In January Mr. De Cordova opened a lecture course here with a humorous essay.

The firm of Newell & Pank took possession of the new sash and blind factory as lessees, and opened it for business on the 17th of January.

On the 7th of March the papers announced the death of Hon. Schuyler Crippen, then one of the oldest members of the Bar of Otsego county. He had sold his place on River street to Mr. H. M. Hooker, and was a boarder at Carr's Hotel.

On the night of the 11th of July, the steamer "Natty Bumppo," which had just fairly commenced its season of running on the Lake, was destroyed by fire. There was a partial insurance, and the present steamer bearing that name was built, and launched in November.

THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE NELSON—THE HONORS PAID HIM.

On the 28th of November Judge Samuel Nelson resigned his associate Justiceship of the U. S. Supreme Court. He might have been the Democratic candidate for President, at one time, had he consented to the use of his name before the national convention of that party.

The Freeman's Journal of Dec. 5th, thus recorded an event which should have a place in this volume :

The Resignation of Judge Nelson as one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.—After a service of twenty-eight years on the Bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, and twenty-two years as a Judicial Officer of his native State, Judge Nelson on Thanksgiving day sent to the Secretary of State of the United States his resignation as one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, and it was accepted on the 1st inst. And thus closes a most remarkable and highly honorable and distinguished judicial career, covering a period of half a century. As to point of time and constant service, it is without precedent in this country or England, and we doubt if it has a parallel in the history of Jurisprudence. Lord Mansfield served 32 years and Lord Eldon 28 years, and they were longest on the Bench of Great Britain ; Chief Justice Marshall was 34 years on the Bench, Chief Justice Taney 30 years, Mr. Justice Story 34 years, and Chancellor Kent about 25 years—and of the distinguished Judges of this country they longest held judicial positions.

Judge Nelson was appointed Judge of the Sixth Circuit, which included Otsego county, in April 1823, which position he held until February 1831, when he was made Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and on the resignation of Chief Justice Savage, in 1837, he took his place. In February 1845 he was elevated to the Bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, where he has won the highest honor as a Judge of strong common sense, broad views, the highest sense of honor, and a ready grasp of weighty topics. On questions in admiralty law and intricate patent suits, a writer in a leading Philadelphia paper recently remarked, especial deference was always paid to the opinions of Judge Nelson.

The Judge has with slight exception always enjoyed robust health, and has never been absent from duty at the State or U. S. Courts but one term, that of last year. At the closing session of the Grand High Commission in the spring of '71, which had lasted seventy days, and was not only of vast importance, but at times very laborious, Judge Nelson took a severe cold from sitting several hours in a room not sufficiently warmed, and after his return home was for several months confined to his house from its effects. From this he recovered, and for the past six months has enjoyed very comfortable health, while his mind has retained all its wonted force and vigor.

There has been a strong desire on the part of many of his friends and admirers in the legal profession, that Judge Nelson should remain on the Bench a few months longer, that his half-century of service might be fully rounded out ; it had even come to his knowledge indi-

rectly—what we heard spoken of in Albany last spring, and quite recently—that it was in contemplation by leading members of the Bar in New York and other parts of the State to celebrate that event in a becoming manner, showing their high appreciation of him as a man and of his eminent services as a Judge; but when it appeared evident to him that he could not go to Washington this winter and discharge the full duties of his office without running the risk of seriously jeopardizing his health—although still able to do all ordinary Chambers work—his strong sense of justice and duty impelled him to the course he has taken, feeling, as he unselfishly remarked, that with so much business pressing upon it, the Court needed the presence of an active working member in his place. Judge Nelson completed his Judicial labors the week of his resignation by deciding an important and final motion on the taxation of costs, amount claimed about \$40,000, in a famous suit which had been in the courts during half the long time he has been on the Bench—the “hook-headed spike case,” *Troy Iron and Nail Factory, (Burden & Co.) vs. Erastus Corning and others.* The motion was heard last spring, and the examination of voluminous papers took time and involved considerable labor.

Judge Nelson reached the advanced age of 80 years on the 10th of last month, and his massive frame and strong mind and cheerful temperament, all give promise of the prolongation of a long and useful life. There is no question that we should have hailed him “Chief Justice” at the death of Judge Taney, had the Administration continued in Democratic hands.

Although the following letter from Secretary Fish is of a private character, it is so just, truly appreciative and well-deserved, that we have begged the privilege of publishing it—knowing full well that the public sentiment will be that the Secretary honors himself in honoring him to whom it is addressed, and that in speaking as warmly as he does he only expresses the feelings of the Judiciary, the Bar and the reading public wherever the venerable Judge is known:

WASHINGTON, November 30, 1872.

MY DEAR JUDGE:

I have just received your letter of the 28th, inclosing your resignation as an Associate Judge of the Supreme Court, and cannot allow the formality of an official acknowledgment to go without the expression of my personal regret that the time has come when you feel it your right to seek the repose to which an honored course entitles you, and that it falls to me to fill the paper which is to terminate your connection with the highest Court of the country, and to separate you from the administration of Justice, to which for half a century you have contributed an amount of patient labor, and of learning, and a

purity, dignity and impartiality which have commanded the confidence, esteem and admiration of an entire nation, and the acknowledgment of Jurists in other lands.

Thanks, my dear Judge, for your congratulations on the result of the treaty, to whose negotiation you contributed so much learning and wisdom. It has had a "hard run" on both sides of the ocean, since it was launched on 8th May, 1871—but it seems likely, at last, to vindicate itself, and to find a quiet resting place in the security and confidence which it gives to two nations whose passions it has calmed.

May years of tranquil and happy life be yours, my dear Judge ; and allow me to subscribe myself,

Very sincerely, your friend,

HAMILTON FISH.

HON. SAM'L NELSON, Cooperstown, Otsego Co., N. Y.

On the 19th of January, 1873, a large meeting of the members of the Bar was held in the U. S. Court Room, New York, over which Charles O'Connor presided, to take suitable action on the resignation of Judge Nelson. Remarks were made by Messrs. O'Connor, Pierrepont, Clarence Seward, Evarts, and others, and a brief address to Judge Nelson was adopted. A committee of distinguished members of the Bar was appointed to present this address to Judge Nelson.

A similar meeting was held by the Bar of Washington, Dec. 13th, 1872, and a letter was adopted, signed by all the leading Lawyers then in the city practicing in the Supreme Court of the U. S., and forwarded to Judge Nelson. The State Bar held a meeting in Albany, in 1873, and adopted an address which was presented him by Chancellor John V. L. Pruyn in the fall of that year.

On the 13th day of February, 1883, the distinguished committee appointed by the New York meeting came here to present to Judge Nelson the address then adopted. The chairman, Judge Pierrepont, was detained at home, and Mr. E. W. Stoughton took his place. His associates were seven leading members of the bar ; and several U. S. Judges, and other gentlemen, were present by invitation. Judge Nelson was briefly addressed by Mr. Stoughton and Judge Woodruff, in feeling terms, and the address was then presented. In reply Judge Nelson said :

Gentlemen of the Committee—I cannot but feel extremely honored by this address of my brethren of the Bar on the occasion of my retirement from the Bench, not more from the friendly and complimentary opinions therein expressed than on account of the unusual and extraordinary mark of respect and affection with which it has been presented ; and I am the more deeply impressed with this mani-

festation, from the consideration that the gentlemen of the Bar who have originated and promoted this honor, some of whom are before me, have been themselves not only eye-witnesses of the judicial administration which they so favorably commend, but in which many of them largely participated in their professional capacity.

I shall ever recur to the sessions of the United States Circuit Court held in the city of New York, extending over a period of more than a quarter of a century, with pride and pleasure. The calendar was large and many of the cases important, involving great labor and responsibility. As an evidence of the magnitude of the business for many years the Court was held three months in the Spring and three in the Autumn of the year, and still left an unfinished calendar. But the gentlemen of the Bar concerned in the trials were intelligent, faithful to their clients and to the Court, whose learning and diligence in the preparation greatly relieved the Judge of his labors, and whose professional deportment and respect banished from the court room every disturbing element, leaving free the full and undivided exercise of the faculties of the Court and counsel in their inquiry after the truth and justice of the case. No one knows better than the presiding Judge how essential this state of feeling between the Bench and the Bar is, not only to the ease and pleasure of both, but to the sound and successful administration of the law.

I have said that the gentlemen of the Bar who have originated this unusual honor, have been eye-witnesses of the judicial service so highly commended. On the other hand I can say that I have witnessed their professional career from the beginning and until their present eminence, many of whom hold my license to practice, granted when Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State. The eminent chairman of the meeting, Mr. O'Connor, the eldest of them, is scarcely an exception. The first session of the Supreme Court of the State after my appointment as Associate Justice was the May Term of 1831, held in the city of New York, more than forty-one years ago. He was then a young counselor, just rising in the profession. He held a good many briefs in cases before the Court from the young attorneys, and was struggling upwards, manfully and with youthful ardor, contending for the mastery against the aged and elder counselors at the Bar—Jay, Ogden, Colden, Munroe, the elder Slosson, Sherwood, Anthon, Duer and others, who then held almost a monopoly of the business before the Courts.

The prevailing impression had been and to a qualified extent was then among the junior members of the Bar, that the experienced seniors had the ear of the Court. This, according to tradition among them, had been undisguisedly so, and to a much larger extent, before the old and

revered Supreme Court of the State. But even at the time I speak of, this feeling in the Court, and which was perhaps not unnatural, had not entirely disappeared. It required, therefore, ability, courage and resolution on the part of the junior, to encounter this impression, which he must in some degree have felt in the trial of strength against the experienced and favored senior. In the country, where I have always resided, Talcott, a young counselor, remarkable for intellectual power and legal learning at his age, opened the way, under some discouragements in the trial and argument of causes before the circuits and in bank. Other juniors, taking courage from his example, followed. He was afterwards Attorney General of the State, the youngest counselor, I believe, ever appointed to that office in New York at the time, with perhaps the exception of Josiah Ogden Hoffman among the earliest of the Attorney Generals.

I was still young when advanced to the Bench of the State, and, as was perhaps natural, my sympathies inclined toward the younger members of the Bar struggling upward and onward in their profession, and as far as was fit and proper they had my favorable consideration and kindness.

I would do injustice to my feelings and convictions if I closed these few observations without making my acknowledgments to the Bar of the Second Circuit of my great indebtedness to them, for any judicial standing to which I may be entitled. Since my first advancement to the Bench, nearly half a century ago, I have had their uniform good will and friendship, have been instructed by their learning and encouraged by the expression of their favorable opinions. They have ever been not only ready but forward to economize and lighten the labors of the Court when the amount of business pressed the hardest, even at the expense of their own personal convenience. So uniform and habitual were these exhibitions of respect and friendship, that I felt when in Court and engaged in the administration of the law that I was surrounded, not in courtesy but in reality, by professional brothers, and that every error would be charitably considered and every act worthy of commendation would receive its full reward. The address of the Bar of New York on the termination of my judicial labors, and in approbation of them, I look upon as the crowning reward, which will be a source of perpetual consolation in the decline of life, and so long as a kind Providence shall permit the speaker to linger here on earth in the enjoyment of faculties unimpaired."

These proceedings appeared in full in the *Journal* of Feb. 20, 1873, which closes them by saying: After the delivery of the reply, the Judge arose and received the congratulations of the Judges, the committee, and others present. An elegant and sumptuous entertainment,

prepared by a noted caterer of Albany, followed. The committee and their friends were then treated to a sleigh-ride on the Lake; a portion of the evening was spent with Judge Nelson, and the next morning they returned home, well pleased with the discharge of a pleasant duty, and with their winter visit to Cooperstown. The affectionate regard with which in private conversation they spoke of "the old Chief," his qualities as a Judge, a lawyer, and a man, showed the sincerity with which they had entered into this public demonstration—and they may rest assured that all they said found a warm response in the hearts of the fellow citizens of Judge Nelson.

1873.—Joyful times among the merchants of Cooperstown at the opening of this year, when hops were selling at 55 cents a pound!

It is stated, on page 89, that the town of Otsego bonded to the extent of \$150,000 in aid of the Cooperstown Railroad. To this sum the town afterwards added \$50,000, making the total amount \$200,000. The paid-up capital stock of the road is \$308,405, of which the town of Otsego owns nearly two-thirds. Its railroad debt at the date of the publication of this book, is \$128,500.

In March, 100,000 young bass and 20,000 salmon trout were placed in the lake. The hatching had been superintended by Capt. P. P. Cooper.

The fire department of Cooperstown was re-organized in May, under the new law giving it a Chief Engineer with two Assistants—a movement which had been long advocated. The first chief was Marcus Field.

The corner stone of the Hotel Fenimore was laid on the 30th day of June.

On the 4th of July there was a grand celebration of the day in this village. Addresses were made by Rev. C. K. McHarg and Messrs. G. P. Keese and Edwin Countryman. A procession, including the Fort Plain Fire Department, paraded the streets, and in the evening an exhibition of fire works was given on the lake. As a remarkable fact, it did not rain!

In August, the Albany Zouave Cadets visited this village, and a grand ball was given at the Cooper House for their entertainment. While here they complimented Judge Nelson by a serenade.

The 18th of September, the Hon. John V. L. Pruyn of Albany presented to Judge Nelson an address from the Bench and Bar of this State, as a testimonial of their regard and appreciation. It was a quiet and informal affair.

On the morning of September 26, the village was startled at an early hour by the ringing of the Court House bell, the occasion of

which was to apprise the citizens of the fact that the house of Edward Edwards, the cabinet maker, had been entered just before daylight by three burglars, who had robbed Mr. E. of \$210 and a watch, shot him twice in the breast, and left him for dead. His daughter, who alone was in the house, gave the alarm, and the immediate neighbors went at once to her assistance. By that time, however, the men had escaped, and were never afterward caught, nor was any reliable clew to their identity ever obtained. Mr. Edwards died about three weeks later from the effects of his wounds, after enduring much suffering, and having been delirious most of the time. He was not able to give a very clear description of his assailants, and it remains to this day a mystery who they were.

The Board of Supervisors of this county having decided to appropriate \$20,000 toward building a new Sheriff's residence and jail, on condition that the town of Otsego appropriate \$5,000 additional toward the same object, Mr. Luther I. Burditt, then the Supervisor of this town, at once gave his check for that amount, trusting to his fellow-citizens interested to reimburse him. To do so, it was resolved to raise the money by subscription, although a special act had been passed authorizing its levy upon the town. All but about \$600 was voluntarily pledged, and by comparatively few citizens. The begging was principally done by Fayette Hinds, D. L. Birge and S. M. Shaw. Every dollar subscribed was collected by Supervisor Hinds, who succeeded Mr. Burditt in office. He was a valuable worker in a good cause. Those who solicited subscriptions were constantly met with this remark: "We approve of the project, and would willingly pay our tax toward it, but object to paying the taxes of other people, many of them rich and giving but little, and others rich or able as ourselves and giving nothing"—and with that sentiment almost every subscriber will heartily sympathize, when he notices the omissions. Voluntary taxes for churches and charitable objects are all right—but in purely public matters like this, the money should be raised by a general tax. The following were the subscribers to the "jail fund:"

Jedediah P. Sill, - - -	\$500 00	L. I. Burditt, - - -	\$100 00
Edward Clark, - - -	500 00	Frederick G. Lee, - - -	100 00
H. F. Phinney, - - -	250 00	A. A. Jarvis, - - -	100 00
W. C. Keyes, - - -	200 00	B. F. Murdock & Bro., - - -	50 00
Samuel Nelson, - - -	150 00	R. Russell & Co., - - -	50 00
Mrs. Jane R. A. Carter, - - -	100 00	F. M. Robinson, - - -	50 00
Lois A. Carr and others, - - -	100 00	O. R. Butler, - - -	50 00
Elihu Phinney, - - -	100 00	Johnston Bros., - - -	50 00
Calvin Graves, - - -	100 00	G. Pomeroy Keese, - - -	50 00
John Wood, - - -	100 00	D. A. Avery, - - -	50 00
Johnston & Field, - - -	100 00	W. H. Ruggles, - - -	50 00

H. M. Hooker & Co., - - -	\$50 00	C. R. Burch, - - -	\$15 00
Geo. W. Ernst, - - -	50 00	Geo. Jarvis & Co., - - -	15 00
S. M. Shaw, - - -	50 00	John B. Hooker, - - -	15 00
C. W. Smith, - - -	50 00	Sanford Casler, - - -	15 00
A. H. Watkins, - - -	50 00	McCabe Bro's, - - -	15 00
J. I. Hendryx & Son, - - -	50 00	Smith & Spingler, - - -	15 00
J. R. Worthington, - - -	50 00	John L. McNamee, - - -	10 00
Sam'l S. Edick, - - -	50 00	Jerome Fish, - - -	10 00
Sturges & Countryman, - - -	50 00	George B. Wellman, - - -	10 00
G. M. Grant & Co., - - -	50 00	C. Z. Gregory, - - -	10 00
Ellery Cory, - - -	50 00	R. Spafard, - - -	10 00
Andrew Shaw, - - -	50 00	John Potts, - - -	10 00
Tyley & Hinman, - - -	40 00	Rufus Wikoff, - - -	10 00
Wm. Brooks, - - -	30 00	Robt. Pearse, - - -	10 00
R. Quaif, - - -	25 00	N. D. Gray, - - -	5 00
George Brooks, - - -	25 00	N. W. Cole, - - -	5 00
F. A. Lee, - - -	25 00	S. Harper, - - -	5 00
Griswold & White, - - -	25 00	H. B. Waker, - - -	5 00
Bowes & Jackson, - - -	25 00	D. E. Siver, - - -	5 00
Nelson Smith, - - -	25 00	Peter Sayles, - - -	5 00
C. K. McHarg, - - -	25 00	J. D. Vanderwerken, - - -	5 00
Beadle & Soule, - - -	25 00	Orrin Benton, - - -	5 00
Jarvis & Bliss, - - -	25 00	Peter Becker, - - -	5 00
E. M. Harris, - - -	25 00	John Pank, - - -	5 00
Walter H. Bunn, - - -	25 00	Frank Carroll, - - -	5 00
Fayette Hinds, - - -	25 00	P. P. Cooper, - - -	5 00
John F. Scott, - - -	25 00	H. L. Hinman, - - -	5 00
P. H. Potter, - - -	25 00	W. T. Bassett, - - -	5 00
Doubleday & Eldred, - - -	25 00	T. S. Blodgett, - - -	5 00
M. & J. Austin & Co., - - -	25 00	C. & L. Hinds, - - -	5 00
B. J. Scofield, - - -	25 00	W. K. Warren, - - -	5 00
H. C. Fish, - - -	25 00	John Hinds, - - -	5 00
Lynes & Van Horn, - - -	25 00	Hills & Shumway, - - -	5 00
Samuel A. Bowen, - - -	25 00	S. Irvin Haynes, - - -	5 00
W. G. Smith, - - -	20 00	Hosea Chapel, - - -	3 00
E. D. Shumway - - -	20 00	Albert Pierce, - - -	3 00
C. Childs, - - -	20 00	Wm. C. Persons, - - -	3 00
H. Groat, - - -	15 00	Buckingham Fitch, - - -	2 00
Chas. R. Hartson, - - -	15 00	Charles Peck, - - -	2 00

The winter of 1873 gave us more than four months continuous sleighing. The ice remained in Otsego lake until the 4th of May, and the lake was again skimmed over on the morning of the 6th. No similar record had occurred for nearly 40 years, as shown by the record kept by Mr. G. P. Keese.

1874.—January 1.—Governor Dix appointed Edwin Countryman,

Esq., Justice of the Supreme Court to fill vacancy. He was not an applicant for the place.

A "mysterious stranger," who proved to be an imposter, spent several days in this village early in this year; he pretended to be deaf and dumb; intimated his desire to purchase real estate; had negotiations with bank officers and others; was evidently a "confidence operator;" his "box containing \$40,000 in gold," did not reveal property of any value. The chief of police of the city of New York intimated that the fellow was not unknown to him by reputation. He was the sensation of the day, and evidently came here to victimize a bank. He gave the name of Wood, and claimed to have just arrived from England.

The ravages of an unusually severe storm, which visited this county in June, did much damage, destroying bridges and other property, to the estimated amount of \$200,000. The rain-fall in this village was $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and in and near Cooperstown considerable damage was sustained.

Hotel Fenimore was opened for business as a summer hotel, in June, and did a good business through the season. It was continued as such for several summers, at the risk and expense of Mr. Edward Clark, who was represented by his agent, Mr. Bunyan. In the aggregate, Mr. Clark was a loser to the extent of several thousand dollars. He gave the property to his son, Ambrose J. Clark, on whose death it again came into the possession of his father.

A fair in August, in aid of the "Orphan House of the Holy Saviour," resulted in placing \$500 to the credit of that institution.

The Albany Institute held its 17th field meeting in this village on the 3d of October. Hon. J. V. L. Pruyn presided and gave a brief account of the organization and purpose of the Society; after which, papers were read and addresses were made by a number of gentlemen of the Institute and the village, and the society adjourned.

The first issue of the Otsego Republican, under the proprietorship of Russell & Davidson, who had bought the establishment of J. I. Hendryx & Son, appeared on the first of November.

Gen. Kilpatrick delivered his lecture on "Sherman's march to the sea" to a large audience, in December. Gen. K. was in command of Sherman's cavalry forces in that famous campaign, and his description of it was very graphic.

1875.—The Freeman's Journal office changed quarters, from "commercial row"—where it had been located for 60 years—to the "iron-clad" building, the first week in February.

Hon. Edwin Countryman delivered a eulogy in Bowne Hall on

the late Judge Nelson, in March. It was a very scholarly and able production.

Extensive repairs were commenced on the Methodist church, and completed at an expense of about \$4,000. The reopening occurred in November, on which occasion Bishop Foster preached.

In October, the directors of the Cooperstown Railroad effected a settlement with the heirs of the late contractor Keenholtz, whose judgment against the company had been confirmed by the Courts.

The last week in December, an advertisement appeared in the Republican offering for sale—"by virtue of several executions issued out of the Supreme Court of this State," the real and personal property of this Railroad Co. This was an unexpected movement, which occasioned great surprise, in view of the fact that the general belief had been that the condition of the road was substantially sound, and that with prudent and careful management it could be extricated from its temporary embarrassment and be made a more valuable property. Time has justified that belief and proved that the course since adopted by the Directors was a wise and judicious one, and has resulted in verifying the more hopeful predictions then made as to the future of the road. In the following March, Mr. Andrew Shaw was elected president of the road, bonds to the amount of \$40,000 were issued to meet the floating debt and to settle the Keenholtz claim, and from that time to the present, with slight interruption, the road has been slowly emerging from its debt.

1876.—The "Centennial Year" of the American Union was ushered in at Cooperstown by the firing of cannon, ringing of bells, bonfires, martial music, &c. A large crowd of people was on the streets until one or two o'clock A. M., waiting to hail the auspicious hour. The president of the village, and the supervisor of this town, was a native of Middlefield, James A. Lynes, Esq.

The work of demolishing the old jail building was accomplished in January.

In February, Judge Sturges received from Governor Tilden the appointment of Canal Appraiser, a position held by him upwards of three years.

The "Half Shire" bill was defeated in the Legislature, in April, and that ended a contest in which this village was deeply interested.

The firm of Bundy Bros. made their first business announcement in March.

The Ballard House was opened to the public in May, being the J. H. Story dwelling and the George Story brick block, on Main street.

The corner stone of the new building of H. M. Hooker & Co., Main and Pioneer streets, was laid with considerable ceremony, during the latter part of July. Remarks were made by citizens of the village, and the village band discoursed stirring music for the occasion.

"Kingfisher Tower," standing a little out from the shore, in lake Otsego, two miles north of Cooperstown, naturally attracts the attention of all visitors to these waters. It was constructed during this year, and in September the wealthy gentleman who caused it to be built at an expense of several thousand dollars, complied with the request of the editor of this volume, by penning the following article for the Journal, in which paper it was published :

"Point Judith," one of the most prominent, as it is one of the loveliest, of the many diminutive capes that jut out from the shores of our lake, presents to the discriminating lover of nature features of greater beauty and opportunities for embellishment scarcely afforded by any of the others. Appreciating this fact, Mr. Edward Clark, almost immediately after purchasing the property, caused to be erected the picturesque cottage in the manner of the Swiss chalets, (to be used as a rustic retreat, or more literally, a private picnicing house.) Nestling among the trees it gave a suggestion of retirement and quiet, adding to the peaceful character of the spot it ornamented, while its varied detail and bright, though not gay, coloring harmonized with the infinite forms and colors of Nature's work. The design, however, was not complete until the erection of the structure just finished, which is to be known as "Kingfisher Tower." This consists of a miniature castle, after the style of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, standing upon the extremity of the Point and rising out of the water to a height of nearly sixty feet. It forms an objective point in the scene presented by the lake and surrounding hills; it adds solemnity to the landscape, seeming to stand guard over the vicinity, while it gives a character of antiquity to the lake, a charm by which we cannot help being impressed in such scenes. Some apprehension was felt lest a proper foundation could not be secured strong enough to resist the force of the ice in winter. This has been accomplished by driving a number of piles on which a grillage was formed of heavy timber, filled with concrete, and on this solid masonry was laid, several feet in height. The castle is about twenty feet square at the base, and at a height of five feet above the water is the main floor. Ten feet above this is the first platform, provided with ramparts and machicolated parapets. Above this stage the tower alone rises, eight feet square, crowned with a pyramidal roof pierced with a window on each side, the walls bearing at one angle a bartizan with conical roof. The walls of the structure are most solidly built of stone from the shores of the lake, the

roofs covered with earthen tiles, the bright red color of which contrasts finely with the sober gray of the stone. The main windows are brilliant with stained glass, and each bears in the center a heraldic shield. A drawbridge connects the castle with the causeway running to the main land, while a portcullis can be lowered to close the entrance. The drawbridge, portcullis and doors are all of solid oak. Stairs lead to the highest platform of the tower, and from the numerous openings and loopholes with which the walls are pierced, a fine panoramic view of the lake and country can be obtained. The effect of the structure is that of a picture from mediæval times, and its value to the lake is very great. Mr. Clark has been led to erect it simply by a desire to beautify the lake and add an attraction which must be seen by all who traverse the lake or drive along its shores. They whose minds can rise above simple notions of utility to an appreciation of art joined to nature, will thank him for it. The original design for "Kingfisher Tower" was selected from several drawn by Henry J. Hardenburgh, Esq., architect, and the entire work upon it has been executed under his supervision.

The visits of tramps, during the entire winter, were disagreeably frequent throughout the county. A public meeting was held here to take measures to abate the nuisance, and action was also taken by the Board of Supervisors.

The first mile of steel rails on the Cooperstown railroad, was laid in December. They are now all steel.

1877.—A famous game of old-fashioned base ball was played here, in August—Judge Sturges heading the "Reds" and Judge Edick the "Blues"—16 on a side. The victory was with the "Blues." It called together a large concourse of people.

The first accident on the Cooperstown railroad, resulting in the loss of life, occurred October 3. A man named G. W. Hopkins, who had been an inmate of the County House, was seen walking on the track, and although the engineer immediately reversed the engine, the unfortunate man was struck by the pilot and instantly killed.

Cooperstown was visited by a grand excursion party from Oneonta, on the 17th October, in which more than 1,100 people participated. The Military Company, and the Fire Department of that village, were the more prominent features, and the day was pleasantly spent in target practice, a dress parade, &c., and closed with the presentation by our citizens of a number of elegant prizes to the best marksmen.

Cooperstown was slightly shaken by an earthquake, at two o'clock, A. M., November 4, lasting from six to eight seconds. It was rather the most notable event of this rather dull year.

1878.—The village was invaded by a small army of tramps, on the 20th of January, as was often the case during this period, and twelve of these recreants, were lodged in jail before night. Later in the year, another public meeting, called for the purpose of abating this tramp nuisance, was successful in its efforts—the tramps not liking the idea of being set to work breaking stone for a living.

On the night of February 15th, the sash and blind factory was destroyed by fire, the loss being about \$18,000. About a month later, the Worthington Bank building and the stone store adjoining it were burned. The latter, it was generally believed, was of incendiary origin. There was a heavy insurance on dry goods being sold by a firm from the city who had a short lease of the building. Samuel Harper occupied the stone building as a furniture factory and store, and his stock was almost wholly destroyed.

Mr. Crittenden, the present proprietor of the Cooper House, took possession in May of this year, and made many striking improvements, preparatory to its opening to summer guests in June. He bought the building and furniture for about \$17,000.

Myron A. Buel, the murderer of the young girl Catherine Mary Richards, at Plainfield Center, was brought to this village and lodged in jail, July 4. This young man, (not 21 years old at the time of the murder,) was tried and convicted the following winter, and executed in this village, November 14, 1879. The prosecution was by District Attorney Benedict and L. L. Bundy; the defense by James A. Lynes and S. S. Morgan. The execution was performed by the sheriff, Mr. James F. Clark.

The surviving members of the 121st Regiment held a reunion in this village in November. It was largely attended, and the "Boys in Blue" were well entertained.

The Court House building was condemned, by a committee appointed for its inspection, in December.

1879.—The lake was closed only 61 days this season, the shortest period in twenty years.

On the site of the old sash and blind factory, Mr. Clark, at an expense of about \$45,000, erected the new Pioneer Flouring Mills, and Planing Mills, the former of which were leased to E. Delavan Hills & Co. for a term of years, and the latter run by Mr. Clark's Agent. These mills are located near the railroad depot, and are connected with the railroad by a side track and turn-table; are equipped with the best and most approved machinery manufactured. The power for propelling this machinery is furnished by two large boilers, a 150-horse-power Watts, Campbell & Co. engine, located in a brick build-

ing adjoining the mills. They were completed in March, and operations began in the following month.

The Fly Creek "Fantasticals" made a sudden descent upon Cooperstown on the 14th of August and caused much amusement by their ludicrous appearance and deportment while parading the streets.

The Board of Supervisors met in extra session in June, to consider the matter of building a new Court House, and decided that a new building was a necessity and that immediate action must be taken to erect one. The committee on finance was authorized to issue county bonds in aid of that purpose. The old Court House having been declared unfit and unsafe for further use, the Sheriff was instructed to rent suitable quarters for the holding of Court, and accordingly secured Bowne Hall, a very commodious and comfortable room for such purpose.

A public meeting was held at Bowne Hall in July, to discuss the new Court House matter, and a committee appointed to take such action as might be desirable and necessary in support of that project; and during the regular session of the Board of Supervisors, held in November, final arrangements were made for the erection of this much-needed and handsome building.

The town of Otsego was placed in a peculiarly embarrassing position by the requirement made by the Board of Supervisors, that it make a special contribution toward the grounds and building of \$10,000. How to raise so large an amount was a matter of much discussion. It was conceded that it could not be raised by voluntary subscription; and finally—by a very broad and liberal construction of the statute quoted below—it was agreed to raise it by tax. The town records, and newspapers of that date, record the following:

"A special town meeting was held, pursuant to call, at the Clinton House, December 2, 1879. Called to order by the Town Clerk, and the following resolution was submitted by S. M. Shaw: 'Resolved, That the Supervisor of the town of Otsego, in behalf of said town, be and he is hereby authorized to apply to the Board of Supervisors of Otsego Co. for power and authority to purchase a site for a Town Hall and to purchase or erect a building for such Hall, as provided by subdivision 20, of section 1, of chapter 482 of the laws of 1875, and to borrow on the credit of said town the sum of \$10,000.' Nine hundred and seventy-two votes were cast, of which 654 were in favor of the resolution, and 328 opposed to it."

A leading member of the Bar and an ex-County Judge remarked at the time: "This is about the broadest and most liberal construction I have ever known given to a statute law—but it seems to be the only way to raise the required amount, to dispose of a troublesome

matter, and to settle once more the question of county town, and I think we shall have to acquiesce." The town of Oneonta was before the Board of Supervisors at the time with a proposition to put up the county buildings at its own expense. By a vote of two to one in numbers, representing not less than four-fifths the taxable property of the town, the tax-payers thereof had voted, and nearly all of them afterward cheerfully paid, this tax—which they all thought should not have been made necessary by the action of the Board of Supervisors.

In November, the Cooperstown Aqueduct Association purchased the old Gregory Mill property, thus getting control of the "water power" for running their pumps, and decided to reconstruct the entire water works, by building—on the site of the old grist mill—a new brick pump house, and placing in it two very powerful pumps, capable of supplying the village most abundantly with water. This plan was carried into effect. A large pipe was laid up into the lake, commencing at a point just south of the cemetery, and running thence to a well in the pump house; engine-pumps of the most approved make were purchased, and new and larger pipes laid through the streets.

1880.—The Journal's publication by S. M. Shaw & Co., was announced on the first day of January, Edward S. Brockham, for many years connected with the office, having become one of the proprietors and publishers at that date.

The contest between several eager candidates for the Postmastership, was ended in January by the appointment of Mr. Harvey I. Russell to that office.

The contract for building the Court House was let to S. R. Barnes and the McCabe Brothers for \$24,995, in the latter part of January.

Much alarm was manifested at the discovery on the morning of May 1st, that several points on "the Vision" were on fire, and a large number of men were employed till late at night in subduing the flames. The damage would have been serious, had there been any wind. The sight at one time was a grand and exciting one.

The Round House of C. & S. V. R. R. Company, in this village, was destroyed by fire on the 5th of June. Two engines belonging to the Company were badly damaged, and the baggage car burned. Loss estimated at fully \$6,000; no insurance.

A large number of families in this village and vicinity opened their houses, in July of this year, for the reception of the poor children of New York, sent into the country by the "Fresh air Fund," for a fortnight's stay in the country. About 136 of these little waifs were thus most kindly cared for, or boarded out by others, the large brick

house south of the village, owned by Hooker & Spafard, being temporarily fitted up and opened for that purpose.

At an expense of about \$2,000, Mrs. Jane R. Carter caused several noted improvements to be made on the property of Christ Church, in July. Mrs. Carter's liberality caused the erection of the beautiful cloister, connecting church and chapel, and the artistic interior arrangement of the chapel is also due her. About \$1,000 were expended on improvements of the church proper, by the parish.

In October, occurred the annual reunion of the 121st and 152d regiments, N. Y. Volunteers, in this place. There was a large attendance, and interesting proceedings.

As an evidence of the esteem in which Prof. J. G. Wight was held by his pupils, a gold watch was presented their faithful instructor, by the school, at the close of the fall term.

LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE COURT HOUSE.

On the 15th of June occurred the laying of the corner stone of the new Court House, with imposing ceremonies. Between eight and ten thousand people were in attendance. The Masonic Order was represented by the Grand Master and other high dignitaries of the State Lodge, the Utica Commandery, K. T., fourteen different Masonic Lodges, and representatives from several other lodges; the 10th Regiment Band of Albany, the Utica City Band, and two other bands were in the procession, with the Board of Supervisors, Building Committee, Village Trustees, and others. The sight was a very imposing one, as this procession filled the entire length of Main street. Major Walter H. Bunn, D. G. M., was Marshal on the occasion. The large arch erected on the Court House grounds, through which the procession passed, was beautifully covered with evergreens and flowers. In this work several ladies kindly assisted. A hard shower seriously interfered with the ceremonies planned for the laying of the corner stone. An ode was sung by a choir of gentlemen and ladies, and then Principal Architect, Capt. H. G. Wood, addressed the Grand Master in the prescribed terms of the Order, closing with the request that he proceed to lay the corner stone. The corner stone was then put in its proper position by the McCabe Brothers, builders, and the Grand Master and his associate high officials stepped forward and conducted the ceremonies in the usual form. At the close of the proceedings of laying the stone, the Masons sang the Dedication Ode. The Grand Master then briefly addressed the assembly present, and Rev. Dr. Lord pronounced the benediction.

The address prepared for this occasion by Hon. Hezekiah Sturges, was as follows :

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow-Citizens : On the 16th of February, 1791, the Legislature of the State of New York created out of the territory theretofore embraced in the county of Montgomery a political division of the State called the county of Otsego. There were then two townships in the county, one called the town of Otsego, organized in 1788, and Cherry Valley, organized in 1791. The town of Otsego was made the shire town. The village that bears the honored name of its founder was selected as the site for its Temple of Justice, where for more than 89 years it has remained, and still does remain.

Assembled on this spot, at this hour, to lay the foundation of a new Hall of Justice, thick thronging shadows come flitting over us, freighted with historical recollections, and with memories of men who have left the impress of their minds and their characters on the history of the country for more than three-fourths of a century.

The first Court House for the county of Otsego was built in 1791, located on the southeast corner of what was then known as Second and West streets of this village, now familiarly known as the location of the Davis block. Its historian describes it as a structure 30 feet square, two stories in height ; the first or lower story of squared logs containing four rooms, and used as the jail ; the second story frame work, and used as the court room. The entrance to the court room was on the north front, two flights of steps on the exterior of the building, meeting on a platform before a door that opened to the air.

This was superseded by a brick structure erected in 1806-7, on the site in the then extreme western limits of the village, 56 feet long and 50 feet wide. The jailer had rooms in the building, and the jail was in the lower story. That Court House was destroyed by fire on the evening of December 17th, 1840, and in 1841 another was erected on the same site. And now, after forty years, the dilapidating power of decay, and the instability of its ground rest, necessitate the construction of a new Temple.

The first court of record, called the Court of Common Pleas, and the first criminal court of record, called the Court of Sessions, was held at the first-erected Court House, the 21st of June, 1791. The Hon. William Cooper was the first Judge of these Courts. He became a resident here in 1788, was the founder of the village, and efficient in procuring the legal organization ; was conspicuous in establishing the judicial, literary, and religious institutions of this part of the county, and in promoting the comfort and welfare of the pioneers to this then nearly primeval forest. He presided over those Courts until October, 1800 ; and from the beginning he impressed upon the

Court of Common Pleas of the county of Otsego a character for dignity, ability and impartiality which it retained and maintained till its last session, in June, 1847.

Jedediah Peck was the Assistant Judge at the first term of the Court. He was a native of Connecticut, of but little legal learning, but remarkable for his sound judgment and quick perception. He was an itinerant surveyor in the county, then new and uncultivated. Judge Hammond says, "he would survey your farm in the day time, preach a sermon in the school-house in the evening and on Sunday, and talk politics the rest of the time. If not the projector, he was the efficient and persevering advocate of the common school system, and through his exertions the foundation of the common school fund was laid." These acts entitle him to, and will ever secure to him, the gratitude of the people of this county.

Associate Justices of the Peace at that term of the court, were Ephraim Hudson, Joshua H. Britt, John Mathias Brown and Miller Johnston. The Court of Common Pleas was continued in this State from the Colonial period of our history, and from 1777, the number of Judges and Associate Justices of the Peace differed in the various counties of the State; in some counties as many as twelve each, constituted that Court. But an act was passed in March, 1818, limiting the number of Judges to five, and abolishing the office of Assistant or Associate Justices. The Court thus constituted was continued without material change till the adoption of the Constitution of 1846.

It was the duty of the county Clerk to act as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas. Gen. Jacob Morris was the Clerk of this Court in 1791 for this county. He had distinguished himself as aid of Gen. Lee in the Revolutionary war. He came to reside in this county in 1787, as the agent of the owners of Morris patent. He was distinguished for his high culture, sound judgment, courteous manners and manly bearing. He was prominent in all the early enterprises in founding the religious and literary institutions in the south part of the county. These with other eminent pioneers made this county, from its earliest organization, distinguished in the State as the home of industry, intelligence, intellectual refinement, and high moral character. Abram Ten Broeck, John I. Morgan, James Cochran, Christopher P. Yates, Amaziah Rust, Andrew Wemple, Anthony I. Merwin and Jacob J. Fonda, were the members of the Bar for the Court of Common Pleas, in this county in the year 1791.

The office of District Attorney was created by law, on the 4th day of April, 1801. Prior to that time, this officer was called the Assistant Attorney General. Under an act of 1796 the State was divided into seven districts, and an Assistant Attorney General was appointed

by the Governor and Council of Appointment, during their pleasure, in each of these districts. The seventh District was composed of the counties of Herkimer and Otsego, and Thomas R. Gold, who became a member of the Bar of the Court of Common Pleas of Otsego county in 1792, was appointed Assistant Attorney General in 1797. In 1801 the office of District Attorney being created, the State was divided into seven districts as before, and subsequently several new ones were created. That division placed Otsego in the sixth district, and Nathan Williams was made the District Attorney therefor in August, 1801. In 1818 each county was constituted a separate district, for the purposes of this office, and on the 11th of June of that year, Ambrose L. Jordan was appointed District Attorney for the county of Otsego.

During the existence of the Court of Common Pleas, Wm. Cooper was First Judge from 1791 to 1800; Joseph White from 1800 to 1823; John C. Morris from 1823 to 1827; George Morell from 1827 to 1832; James O. Morse from 1832 to 1838; Jabez D. Hammond from 1838 to 1843; Charles C. Noble from 1843 to 1847.

The records of the Court of Common Pleas and the Court of Sessions, held at the same terms, during the fifty-six years of its existence, disclose that this Court performed a very large amount of judicial labor. That Court commanded the respect and confidence of suitors, of advocates, and of the people. It was abolished by the constitution of 1846, and what is denominated the County Court was established to take its place. And now, after the experience of thirty years, it may be seriously questioned whether the change has been any improvement of our local judiciary.

The first Circuit Court and Oyer and Terminer, in this county, was held on the 7th of July, 1792. Hon. John Lansing, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, presiding. This Court was held here but once a year, till the reorganization of the judiciary in 1821, and thereafter two terms of this Court were held here—and in September 1823. Hon. Judge Nelson first presided in that Court in this county.

The history of the Otsego Bar commences with the organization of the county, and nearly dates with the period when the foundations of our State and National governments were laid. This is no time to individualize and eulogize. It is enough, on this occasion, to say that the members of the Bar of this county have maintained the high character of the profession for legal learning and forensic ability. It has at all times contributed to preserve civil and social order, public and private justice, to keep alive sentiments of obedience and reverence, and the supremacy of the calm, grand force of the law over fit-

ful passion and ungoverned license. It has been seen and felt in the establishment of the civil, political, literary and religious institutions of our country, the outgrowth of which has been the peace, good order and moderate prosperity that prevail in our borders, till here, within our county, we answer the inquiry of Sir William Jones :

“What constitutes a State?

Not high-raised battlement or labor'd mound,

Thick wall, or moated gate;

Not cities proud, with spires and turrets crown'd;

Not bays and broad armed ports,

Where, laughing at the storm, rich navies ride;

Not starr'd and spangled courts,

Where low-browed baseness wafts perfume to pride.

No: Men, high-minded men,

With powers afar above dull brutes endued,

In forest brake or den,

As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude:

Men who their duties know,

But know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain.

* * * * *

These constitute a State.”

Of such is the county of Otsego.

But the interest attaching to the construction of a Court House, does not all lie in the reminiscences of the past. It has another, if not a higher and nobler significance, that is to be seen and felt, not only by the generation that now is within the geographical limits of our own county, but by all the generations yet to come. Such a structure is the physical personification, or rather the material symbol, of liberty protected by law. It is the forum where unlicensed liberty on the one hand is restrained, and where despotic power on the other is repressed. The history of the centuries gone is replete with the description of men, of factions, of parties, to maintain an undefined liberty or unrestrained license on the one side, and despotic power on the other. Indeed, during the entire political history of the world, whole nations, in every age and in every clime, have been tinged with the blood of their people in maintaining the one, and in overthrowing the other.

During nearly the whole of the 16th century and part of the 17th, the people of France were engaged in contests for religious liberty, and its rulers were engaged in repressing it by the enforcement of edicts upon the lives and property of its citizens in such manner of cruelty and barbarity, that I fear its parallel cannot be found in the unwritten records of savage life. Yet in the 18th century the pend-

ulum swung to the other extreme, till the events that followed hard on the death scene of Louis XVI. engulfed all liberty and all law, all social order, in one common ruin.

Liberty is a theme that has called forth the loftiest strains of the poet, the sweetest songs of the lyre, and the most eloquent periods of the orator. The statesman uses it as the watch-cry from the walls of the political edifice against danger; the demagogue, to awaken political jealousies, and finds it powerful to raise the demon discord; and yet liberty, when unrestrained, rushes on to anarchy more destructive to human society than despotic power itself. Hence law is essential to liberty, in that it defines and secures the right, and spreads its shield over the weak as well as the strong; for law is made for those who are not a law unto themselves; for the lawless and disobedient. It, for the most part, is a body of rules and enactments, portions of which may be traced to inspired wisdom, others to Rome, the lawgiver of nations, others to the refining process of reason, perfected by the learning of more modern times. It so far restrains and circumscribes liberty, that "it defends the helplessness of infancy, it restrains the passions of youth, it protects the acquisitions of manhood, it shields the sanctity of the grave, and executes the will of the departed."

Hence the only safety of the body politic lies in that condition of society in which liberty is restrained and protected by law. Yet without administration and enforcement of law, there would be in effect no law. Therefore, the whole order of society rests on its sure administration.

Here, therefore, in this rising Temple, may the law be always administered in the solidity of justice, and in the stability of fortitude, so long as the shadow of these walls shall follow the rising or setting sun. So long as that lake shall mirror on its placid bosom yon classic mountain, may liberty here be protected by law. *Esto perpetua!*"

The box for the reception of the articles was made of copper, 20 inches in length, 10 inches wide and 4 inches deep. To enumerate the records and articles placed in it, would occupy several pages of this book. The box was covered by a marble slab, fitted into the stone, 12 by 22 inches in size, and bears the following inscription, artistically executed by Henry J. Hollman of this village, an employee of the McCabe Brothers: "June 15th, A. L. 5880, M. W. Jesse B. Anthony, Grand Master of the State of New York."

The building committee was: Luther I. Burditt of Otsego, Henry G. Wood of Oneonta, Lewis McCredy of Richfield.

The Postoffice, which had been kept in the Phinney block for many years, was this year moved across the street to the Bundy block.

During this year there was much active and practical Temperance work done in this village, in which many ladies were efficient laborers.

A census of Cooperstown, made this year, "shows the number of inhabitants to be 2,198, of whom 1,180 are females, and 1,018 males—majority of females 162, of whom many are widows. Also, that there are 72 persons on the corporation who are upwards of 70 years of age, three of whom are 90 or upwards. Number of dwelling houses 268, occupied by 466 families."

Out of this population of 2,200 souls, there were only 21 deaths during the year, of whom six—rather above the yearly average—were children; one of the deceased residents was 67, one 70, two 74, one 83, one 85, one 90.

CHAPTER XII.

FROM 1881 TO 1886.

During this half decade, which brings our record down to the present time, the village of Cooperstown saw little or no increase in its general business; but there was a steady though slow growth in population, as evinced in the fact that each year witnessed the erection of a few additional dwelling houses, some of which are of the better class; three new brick stores were built on Main street; the brick Orphanage and "Templeton Lodge"—a large summer boarding house—were erected; a section of the proposed sewerage system constructed; the Hotel Fenimore changed hands and was opened as a business hotel; Dr. McKim of New York built a unique summer house on the corporation, and Dr. Fowler and Mr. Waller of that city built the handsome large cottages standing a little east of the village, in the edge of Middlefield; Mr. Schuyler B. Steers purchased "the Lakelands," and spent a large amount in building a handsome stone and wood cottage, in enlarging and improving the mansion, &c.; Mr. E. F. Beadle of New York laid out "Nelson Avenue," and he and Dr. C. F. Campbell made other improvements in that locality; upper Main street has witnessed marked growth and improvement.

1881.—During the last week in January, the County Musical Convention held a very successful session here, under the conductorship of H. R. Palmer.

Otsego 4 per cent. town bonds were sold here in February, at a small premium.

At the opening of the winter term, Union School had the largest number of pupils enrolled up to that time, 426. and another addition to the building became a necessity, as voted at a special meeting held in May. It cost about \$4,000

In March the sale of the Cooper House by the executors of the late H. F. Phinney, to Mr. S. E. Crittenden, was effected, for \$16,000, including furniture.

Judge Bowen held the first session of court in the new Court House in March. In the erection of this building, it was shown that the contractors, who had done considerable work not specified in the contract, had received about \$5,000 less than they expended; the Board of Supervisors, in consideration thereof, voted to pay them \$4,955—an act of equity and justice.

In the early part of this winter the "Cooperstown Literary Society and Debating Club" was inaugurated, and held regular weekly meetings during the winter and spring, with Jas. A. Lynes as president. It is still maintained.

The question of a sewerage system for this village was much discussed this spring.

The Second National Bank of Cooperstown reduced its capital to \$200,000 in May, and the First National to \$150,000 in September.

S. M. Ballard, who had been for several years the proprietor of the hotel bearing his name, purchased from the Story estate the entire hotel property, in October. Soon after, John R. Millard became a partner in the business.

Miss Cooper began this fall to solicit subscriptions for aid in raising funds for the erection of a new Orphan House, the building occupied at that time being much too small.

G. M. Grant & Co., were established in their new building in time for the Holiday season.

The Lakewood Cemetery Association purchased for \$4,000 the thirty-acre lot adjoining their property on the north, during the spring.

An exhibition of the fine cattle and horses kept on the two farms of Mr. Edward Clark occurred in August, and attracted a great deal of interest and attention.

A public meeting of the citizens of this village was held September 20, to take action with reference to expressing the sentiments of this community on the death of the President of the United States. The attendance was large; the feeling one of evident deep sympathy. Mr. Edward Clark was made chairman of the meeting, and briefly expressed his high appreciation of the character and abilities of the deceased President. Rev. Dr. Lord then offered prayer, and was followed by W. H. Bunn, who spoke with much feeling of the nation's great bereavement in the death of President Garfield, and after stating the object of the meeting to be the making of preliminary arrangements for public ceremonies to be observed by this community, in view of the President's death, moved that a committee of fifteen be appointed by the Chair to attend to the carrying out in detail of such services. The motion was adopted and the committee selected by the chairman. On the morning of the same day the church bells of this village were tolled, flags were raised at half mast, and the public buildings, stores, and most of the private dwellings, were draped in mourning.

Generous aid was sent to the sufferers from the Michigan fires, in September, by our citizens.

1882.—A bill passed the Assembly, in February, amending the

charter of the village of Cooperstown ; its chief provision being the giving to the Trustees power to raise by taxation \$2,000 instead of \$1,000, as heretofore.

Mr. E. F. Beadle and Dr. C. F. Campbell effected several noticeable improvements on their property in the western part of the village during this season, and these led to other improvements in the years following.

The Trustees of the village voted an appropriation to cover the expense of ascertaining the probable cost of constructing a system of sewerage, and placed the matter in the hands of Messrs. McElroy & Son, Civil Engineers of Brooklyn, who made a survey, map and specifications.

The first stereotyping was done in Cooperstown in 1830, by H. & E. Phinney, and the last by them in 1849. The first done since then was by Mr. E. S. Brockham, in the latter part of June, 33 years afterward.

The State Inter-Academic Union held its seventh annual meeting in this village in July, with a very large attendance at its most interesting sessions. A trip around the lake, in the "Natty Bumppo," was made during the time by most of those present.

Hon. Isaac N. Arnold of Chicago delivered a most interesting lecture in Bowne Hall, in July, for a local object, on "Lincoln and Congress during the Rebellion."

The Trustees of the Orphanage decided in August to erect a substantial brick and stone building, to accommodate about eighty children, about two-thirds of the amount necessary for the completion of the entire work being already subscribed at that date. In October, the corner stone was laid, Bishop Doane delivering the address.

Mr. John Worthington of this village, recently appointed U. S. Consul at Malta, sailed from New York for that island, in September.

During the month of August, a gang of burglars visited many of the towns in this county, including this village, where after an unsuccessful attempt to enter the house of Dr. Lathrop, they, the same night, effected an entrance into Mrs. Carter's residence, and although frightened off by the movements of some person in the house, managed to get away with a quantity of silver-ware, a part of which was recovered, some days later, at Richfield Springs.

A meeting of the citizens of Cooperstown was held at the Court House, October 16th. to take some appropriate action with reference to the death of Mr. Edward Clark. Judge Bowen presided, and a committee consisting of Messrs. S. M. Shaw, Andrew Davidson and Prof J. G. Wight presented a series of fitting resolutions, which were adopted, expressive of the loss sustained by the community in Mr. Clark's decease, and tendering sympathy to his family.

In October, Mr. E. F. Beadle opened a new street, named "Nelson Avenue" in honor of the late Judge Samuel Nelson, and extending from Main to Lake street.

1883.—On the first day of the new year, J. Warren Lamb & Co., moved into their new quarters, in the fine building erected by them on Main street.

There was, during the winter, some discussion of a new railroad project, looking to the connection of Cooperstown with the New York Central at Fort Plain, and several public meetings for the consideration of this matter were held in that village; but no action was taken in the matter.

The completion of the Westlake block, one of the finest improvements made on Main street for many years, was effected in February. It is now owned by L. I. Burditt, Esq.

Cooperstown was connected by telephone with several near and remote villages during this winter, and the system has been largely extended since that time by the active manager, Mr. Paul T. Brady.

The death of Mr. James I. Hendryx, late editor of the Republican, and since a resident of Minnesota was announced in February. He was a man of good natural abilities, and at one time held the office of County Treasurer.

In response to communications from the Cooperstown Board of Health to the State Board, Dr. Elisha Harris, secretary, and Mr. Emil Knichling, C. E., visited this village, June 15th, and were shown about by the local authorities. In the evening, a meeting was held, and Doct. Harris, on invitation, gave his views upon the sewerage question and other matters of like interest to Cooperstown.

There was an elaborate celebration of the Fourth of July in Cooperstown, in which the Third Separate Company of Oneonta, commanded by Capt. Wood, participated. In the afternoon a series of games (in which prizes were contended for) were played, and a fine display of fireworks was given in the evening. Rev. C. K. McHarg delivered the oration of the day, and gave an unusually interesting and able address.

Beautiful "Lakelands," just across the river from Cooperstown, was sold in August by H. J. Bowers, as agent for the estate of the late John M. Bowers, to Schuyler B. Steers, who was then the occupant of the premises, for \$35,000. The purchase includes the homestead lot, and land near, amounting in all to 22 acres.

The Orphanage received a substantial benefit of about \$100 in August, as the result of an amateur dramatic entertainment, given by the guests of the Cooper House.

A gala day for Cooperstown occurred in the latter part of August, on the occasion of a visit to the Cooperstown Fire Department, from the Military Company and Fire Department of Oneonta. The Military Company entered camp on the Lake immediately, and during the day there occurred the handsomest parade witnessed here for many years, two of the finest bands in the State furnishing most excellent music. The reception and escort were by the Cooperstown Fire Department.

Early in September, Doct. E. P. Fowler of New York, then spending his third summer in Cooperstown, purchased of Mr. H. K. Jarvis forty acres of land, lying east and a little south of this village, in Middlefield, on which he has since erected a most beautiful summer residence, commanding, from its slightly location, an extensive view of the Lake and upper Susquehanna valley. He sold a few acres of this land to his friend, Mr. Frank Waller, a landscape painter of New York, who has erected a fine lodge on it.

The murder trial of Mrs. Sergeant, accused of poisoning her child, was in process before Judge Follet in the latter part of September. The prisoner was acquitted on the ground of insanity at the time of the act. Mrs. Sergeant was committed to the Utica Insane Asylum, where a thorough examination by the physicians of the institution proved her mental condition was such as to justify the verdict of the jury. She remained in that institution about one year, when she returned to her friends, cured of her malady.

The County Bible Society held its annual meeting in the Methodist church in October. Rev. Dr. Swinnerton of Cherry Valley and Rev. Mr. Babcock of Richfield Springs, delivering able and interesting addresses.

People in Cooperstown at all versed in astronomy, were interested in the reappearance of an old friend, the comet of 1812, in December of this year.

A public meeting was called by the village Trustees, in the latter part of December, to consider the sewerage question. The prevalent feeling was in favor of the system, and its early adoption if a satisfactory plan could be agreed upon, was decided. Subsequently, under the bill passed by the legislature, a section of the system was built, at a cost of about \$5,000.

In December, the Presbyterian church narrowly escaped destruction by fire, caught near the furnace, and fortunately discovered before it had made progress.

1884.—The Semi-Centennial Celebration of the Baptist church of this village occurred in January, at the morning and evening services

on which occasion the audience room was crowded to its utmost capacity by those interested in the exercises attending the close of this half century of the existence of this ecclesiastical body. Rev. Mr. Sawyer, a former pastor, preached in the morning.

The sale of the Central Hotel to W. N. Potter of Oneonta, was effected in February, \$24,500, being the amount paid for house, furniture, stores, omnibus, team, &c.

A fitting tribute to the late Judge Samuel A. Bowen was paid by James A. Lynes, in the County Court, during the latter part of February, and on behalf of the committee previously appointed, this gentleman submitted to the court a copy of most feeling resolutions, after which brief and touching remarks were made by different members of the Bar.

The pupils of Union School, in March, placed on its walls an excellent portrait of the late Judge Bowen, for many years chairman of the Board of Education.

The Hotel Fenimore was reopened under the management of Jesse B. Brown in April, and immediately took rank as a first class hotel. Mr. Edwin M. Harris was the purchaser of the property, as the financial backer of Mr. Brown.

In April of this year, the following party of fourteen residents of Cooperstown sat down to tea together, on the 68th anniversary of the birthday of Mrs. Peter S. Sayles. We also give their respective ages at this date, February, 1886, as all are still living : Peter Becker, 80 ; Mrs. Becker, 72 ; William Brooks, 72 : Mrs. Brooks, 70 ; S. W. Bingham, 79 ; Mrs. Bingham, 79 ; Peter P. Cooper, 70 ; Mrs. Cooper, 66 ; Lorenzo White, 68 ; Mrs. White, 67 ; Peter S. Sayles, 75 ; Mrs. Sayles, 70 ; Isaac K. Williams, 74 ; Mrs. Williams, 71. Total years 1013—being an average of about $72\frac{1}{2}$ years. Of this party, none are regarded as in feeble health ; indeed, with one or two exceptions, all are now enjoying excellent health.

Building operations were unusually active this season, especially in the north and south portions of the village. Delaware street was rapidly built up with small and neat cottages, and Mr. L. I. Burditt added to his cottages on Beaver street. Dr. Robert McKim of New York commenced the erection of his large summer cottage on Lake street. Plans for Mr. Constable's fine mansion on the Lake, about a mile north of this village, promised the erection of such a notable building as this beautiful residence proves to be.

The sad announcement of the sudden death of Mr. Frederick A. Lee, startled the town on the 29th of May. Only three hours before, he had left the Journal office, having made a pleasant call on his friend, the editor of this book.

The death of Mrs. Philena Butts, the oldest resident of the village—having completed her 98th year—occurred in June. Mrs. Butts had been for 65 years a resident of this village.

A Teachers' Institute for the county of Otsego was held here in August, the State Instructors being Dr. John H. French and Prof. Chas. T. Pooler. There was a large attendance of teachers.

A. H. Gazley drove a well in his yard, at the foot of Bay street, in August, in which, after attaining a depth of 53 feet, the well flowed freely 20 inches above the surface of the ground.

In July, Mr. Davidson purchased the interest of his partner, H. I. Russell, in the Republican, and has since carried on the business alone. His son is an assistant in the office.

In July and August the summer visitors here were more numerous than for the past two or three years.

The Hop Growers' Association of Otsego county held its annual convention in the Court House during the month of August on which occasion the questions of picking hops and prices for the same were discussed by different members of the association. No practical good of any moment resulted from the efforts of this organization, and but few meetings were held.

The family at the Orphanage sustained a severe loss in the death of the beloved matron, Mrs. Eliza M. Stanton, in August. During the twelve years of her service in this orphan household, this lady had endeared herself not only to the children in her charge, but to many sincere friends, who admired her intelligence, faithfulness, and her beautiful and symmetrical character.

An entertainment and fair, given by the guests of the Cooper House for the benefit of the Orphanage, in August, netted about \$413. An entertainment given by Madam Pupin, the previous week, netted \$112.

Edgewater was the principal point of social attraction for two evenings during the latter part of August, when Mr. Keese, his daughters and a few friends united in giving a very pleasing amateur dramatic and musical entertainment in aid of the Orphanage, which netted about \$100 for the worthy object in view.

The Skating Rink of this village was formally opened early in September, under the auspices of the Fire Department, about 700 people being present, and the entertainment netting the Department about \$100. For a few weeks this attraction remained in favor, and drew to it large numbers of the young people who take pleasure in skating. Of late, it has been a very convenient place for the holding of entertainments of different kinds where ample room is required.

In laying the corner stone of his residence, in September, Doct.

Fowler placed therein, copies of the village papers, together with copies of the New York daily papers, of that date, and other interesting matter.

The Orphanage narrowly escaped destruction by fire the second Sunday in September, but the flames were arrested without heavy damage to the building, by the prompt and efficient Fire Department, and a good supply of water from the hydrant near the building. The loss on building, about \$700, was fully covered by insurance. The furniture was damaged to the extent of about \$200.

A benefit at the Rink for the Orphanage, under the kindly auspices of the Fire Department, netting \$117.53, was of great service to that institution in assisting to repair the damage of the fire, and several of the churches of the village generously donated their Sunday morning collections, amounting to about \$90. to this worthy object, with which aid the furniture destroyed by the fire was replaced.

At a meeting of the directors of the Cooperstown Railroad, held in the latter part of September, the telephone was reported completed, and to be answering a very good purpose, telegraph operators being no longer required.

October 4th, a special election occurred, for the determination by the taxpayers in regard to the issue of bonds for the construction of sewerage in Cooperstown. Less interest was excited than was expected, only 124 votes being cast, 74 for and 50 against the system.

A handsome tribute to a faithful and devoted teacher, in the shape of a substantial gift of \$50, was presented Miss Ball an instructor in the Union School since its opening, by her appreciative pupils, in October.

The sad though not unexpected death of the Hon. Hezekiah Sturges occurred December 4th, after an illness of about forty days. At a session of the County Court held in the Court House, Dec. 15, resolutions were submitted to the Court, and eulogistic remarks on the deceased Judge were made by different members of the Bar, in which the grandeur of his Christian character, his high standing in his profession, his genial and kindly disposition and true and noble manhood, were eloquently referred to.

Christ Church was the recipient of a valuable and gracious gift, on Christmas day; a new altar of polished oak, a brass cross, beautifully carved with the passion flower, and white hanging, heavily embroidered in gold, surrounded by rich silk bullion fringe, were seen and in use for the first time that day. While no publicly announced name accompanied these costly gifts, it was well known that they were contributed by the same generous hand that made complete the beautiful memorial chapel.

1885.—The trial and conviction of Jas. F. Clayton, of Middlefield, for the murder of his little child, in August last, occurred in January of this year, before Judge Murray, and very naturally excited a great deal of interest. This crime was a most unnatural one, and was committed while the defendant was under the influence of liquor; he had no motive for killing the child, had never shown any aversion to it; on the contrary, in his sober hours, and generally, he evinced his attachment for it. He was for the moment a partially insane man, but not wholly irresponsible for his acts. His own bad habits had brought him into that condition. Rum had been his ruin, and he suffered the just penalty of his crime. He was sentenced to State prison for life. He was very ably defended by Mr. James A. Lynes, and the prosecution by District Attorney Barber and Mr. Edick was also strong.

A highly successful Musical Convention assembled here during the last week in January. The attendance was large, Prof. Case, the conductor, gave evidence of his experience and high qualifications in his able instructions to the large class, and the presence of Mrs. Helen E. H. Carter of Boston and several other soloists of a high order, at the concerts, gave assurance of most excellent entertainments at the close of the session.

A most admirably managed and largely attended Ball was given by the Fire Department, the first week in February. The music by the Tenth Regiment Band of Albany, was the best ever furnished on a similar occasion; about 500 persons were in attendance.

The report of the State Board of Health showed the death rate in Cooperstown in December to be considerably less than that of fourteen other places enumerated, only one place named making a better showing than Cooperstown.

The snows during the month of February were unusually heavy, the railroad being snow-bound for the first time in several years.

One of the village papers made the following statement this winter: Strangers who visit Cooperstown often speak of it as "a place containing a great many very wealthy people." That is a mistake. There are say 16 to 18 persons on this corporation who are worth from \$40,000 to about \$60,000, several of whom are ladies, and none of whom would be called very wealthy; few are adding to their capital. One gentleman who resides here a few months in the year, ranks among the wealthiest men in the country, being worth many millions of dollars; a lady is at the head of an estate, partly unproductive, worth say \$2,500,000, and there are six gentlemen whose wealth is estimated about as follows: \$450,000, \$250,000, \$200,000, \$120,000, \$100,000, \$85,000.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt in this place and some of the surrounding towns. on the last day of February, buildings being shaken, the houses rattled and water disturbed. It however created no alarm.

In March of this year Mr. J. Fred Reustle bought out his partner Clark, a non-resident, and commenced the merchantile business on his own account. The same year he built for himself a handsome dwelling house on the old "bull's head" lot.

The annual report of the Treasurer of the village in March, showed that the money raised for ordinary purposes was \$2,924. The sum of \$915 was well spent on the Fire Department; law expenses took \$40; street lights, \$520; police, \$108; board of health, \$97; these being the heaviest items. Nearly \$3,600 was expended upon sidewalks and roads. The village had no debt except that incurred for sewerage—less than \$5,000.

There was a demand, which could not be met, during the spring, for dwelling houses, which could be rented at \$100 to \$225 a year. There were no unoccupied dwellings.

The boarding house, "Templeton Lodge," was constructed by Dr. Campbell, this spring. Pleasantly located near the lake, furnished with a view to the convenience and comfort of a summer home to its guests, and with its genial and excellent hostess, Mrs. Goodwin, this house was opened the following June, and gave most excellent satisfaction to the guests that filled the house.

March was the coldest first spring month experienced in 35 years.

Mr. Delos L. Birge succeeded Mr. Russell as postmaster in this village, in April, on the resignation of the latter. He receives a salary of \$1,700, and \$400 for clerk hire.

Mrs. Carter this spring fitted up the old family residence on Lake street, for her son-in-law, Rev. Philip A. H. Brown of New York.

In May, Mr. Walter H. Bunn of this village was appointed to the important office of United States Marshal for the Northern District of New York. He has about 30 deputies, and holds his principal office in Cooperstown.

Memorial Day was observed the last week in May, with appropriate ceremonies. It has been the custom to observe this day in Cooperstown, since its institution.

The Nelson block, near the corner of Main and Pioneer streets, narrowly escaped conflagration on the 27th of May. The fire originated in the 3d story of one of the buildings, which was damaged to the extent of about \$1,000. The furniture in the editorial rooms of the Republican office also suffered considerable damage.

The Albany Academy Cadets, a fine body of young students, visited

this village on the 5th of June, accompanied by the Tenth Regiment Band. They made a good appearance and a favorable impression.

Mr. John L. McNamee this summer sold to Mr. James Bunyan the fine, sightly building lot, corner of Main and Pine streets, on which Mr. Bunyan will erect a handsome dwelling.

Bishop Doane, of this Episcopal Diocese, visited Christ Church, Cooperstown, in June, and administered the rite of confirmation to a class of 36, most of whom were young people. Bishop McNierny, of this Catholic Diocese, visited St. Mary's church during the same month, and administered the rite of confirmation to a class of 185 children.

A number of city people who came to Cooperstown this summer, came by the way of the Ulster and Delaware railroad to Stamford, thence by Tally-Ho coach to Cooperstown Junction.

The summer of 1885 was a favorable one to those whose business largely depends on the presence of city people.

In their 29th annual report, made in July, the Trustees of Lake-wood Cemetery say: "The present number of lot-owners is 475, and of lots sold 602. The total number of interments made since the opening of the Cemetery is 1478, of which 509 have been removals from other grounds. During the past year there have been 51 burials and 12 reinterments. The receipts of the past year were \$2,531.67 and the disbursements \$2,426.60. The total receipts since the organization have been \$55,446.19, and the expenditures \$55,370.29."

One of the finest drives out of Cooperstown has been to "Rum Hill," about 6 miles north of Cooperstown. The name of this elevation was this season changed to "Mount Otsego" on which the proprietor, Mr. Rufus Wikoff, has erected an observatory. It was visited by a large number of people during the summer. The view from this point is one of the most noted and beautiful in the State of New York.

On the last Sunday morning in July the sermons by Rev. Mr. Deniston in the Presbyterian church, and Rev. Mr. Partridge in the Baptist church, were memorial discourses on General Grant. Rev. Father Hughes of St. Mary's and Rev. Dr. Beach in Christ Church, referred in an appropriate and feeling manner to the General's death.

On the 8th day of August memorial services were held in the Rink, to pay proper tribute to the memory of General Grant. The day was all that could be desired; the weather most delightful for mid-summer. The business places generally, and many private residences, were appropriately draped. There was quite a large attendance from this and neighboring towns. At 1:30 p. m. the line was formed on Church street, in the following order: Marshal James F. Clark, drum corps, L. C. Turner Post, thirty members uniformed and carrying muskets,

members of other Posts, G. A. R., and soldiers, forty in number, with muskets. President of the day, Orator and Clergy in carriages, followed by the committee of arrangements and citizens, led by Marshal Bunn, the column marching to slow music. On approaching the rink, where the services were to be held, Commander Flanigan brought his command to "reverse arms." At the rink the soldiers were brought to company front, and stacked arms before entering. The rink was filled, seating over a thousand people comfortably. Capt. Andrew Davidson, on taking the chair to preside, made a few appropriate and well-timed remarks. The invocation was by Rev. Mr. Pitcher of Hartwick Seminary; Rev. Mr. Olmstead read a selection from the Scriptures; singing by the choir; prayer by Rev. Mr. Denniston. The address of Rev. Mr. McHarg occupied just an hour, and the speaker was, as usual, equal to the occasion. Every word was distinctly heard by the large audience, and from the opening to the close of the eulogy the closest attention was paid the orator. The speaker devoted his time principally to a deeply interesting account of the public life of the deceased hero, showing perfect familiarity with his great military career, and also his position on important measures which came before Congress during his two presidential terms. He then spoke of his trip around the world, the great honors paid him by the most distinguished people everywhere, and finally of his sickness and death. The singing, which was under the direction of Mr. Wm. H. Russell, was excellent—the choir composed of about a score of gentlemen of this village.

This season, as in several preceding summers, Cooperstown was visited by a number of large excursion parties, from Albany, Binghamton and other places. On the lake were a large number of camping parties.

The popular game of lawn tennis was more generally introduced and played in Cooperstown this summer. Several large parties engaged in this favorite out-door game, were assembled on the convenient grounds of Mrs. Carter and Mr. S. B. Steers, on the lake.

Several hundred hop pickers were brought to Cooperstown by the railroad, from Albany and other cities, the closing week in August. This has been a custom during the last few years.

The house building mechanics of Cooperstown were kept well employed during the fall on the dwellings being erected by Messrs. J. F. Reustle, E. F. Beadle, J. A. M. Johnston, E. S. Bundy, L. I. Burditt, W. P. K. Fuller and others.

The Masonic Lodge Room of this village was extensively and elaborately repaired during the summer. New carpets, curtains and fixtures were added at a large expense, and the Lodge now has a handsome room. The expense of these improvements was between

\$700 and \$800, and shared by Otsego Lodge. No. 138, and Otsego Chapter, No. 26. The former has a membership of 150 and the latter about 80.

The first week in October, on petition of the property owners of North Fair street, the Trustees of the village commenced laying sewer pipes from Main street to a junction with the main sewer.

The American Hotel, on Pioneer street, was sold by D. M. Hunter to Albert Palmer, in November, and the latter took possession the same month.

A meeting of the drafted men of Otsego county was held in this village on the 3d of December, the object being to obtain legislative enactment which will enable the towns to pay the expense to which these men were put during the late civil war.

The village papers published in December contained this mention of the sale of a handsome and desirable piece of real estate on the lake, near Cooperstown: "The 'Leatherstocking Falls' property, comprising 88 acres, which has been in the Johnson family nearly all of the time for 80 years, has been sold by Edward H. Johnson, the present occupant, to Walter Langdon of Hyde Park, Dutchess county, who designs it for his nephew, Woodbury Kane of New York; consideration \$10,000."

Several Cooperstown people went to Florida, to spend the present winter.

Said a village paper, at the close of this year: "Dwellings of the value of about \$40,000 have been erected on this corporation during this year; and a few just off of the corporation to the value of about \$22,000. Both exclusive of lots and out-buildings. We do not include Mr. Constable's fine residence on the lake, completed this spring, and which alone cost about \$20,000."

The "Willow Brook" place, in the village, was sold by Mrs. F. A. Lee to her nephew, Mr. Henry C. Bowers of New York.

Some of the predictions which Mr. Cooper made, in 1838, in the closing paragraphs of his "Chronicles," are now being realized. Accommodations have been provided, in hotels and boarding houses, for those who wish to spend the summer season here; others, who desire a furnished private house, are readily accommodated, some of the most desirable dwellings in the village being placed at the service of city families, and generally at a fair rent. Although the shores of the lake are not yet "lined with country residences," these have commenced to make their appearance, several having been built within the last two years, two or three near the head of the lake. Others will follow;

slowly, it may be, on account of the difficulty of obtaining desirable locations, of five to twenty-five acres or more of land, at what would be deemed a reasonable price. It is more than probable that within the present decade Cooperstown will have direct railroad communication with the Hudson river, and that will invite a far greater number of summer visitors to Otsego lake and its beautiful shores. It is not likely that Cooperstown will ever become a manufacturing place, for several evident reasons—a potent one being, its capitalists do not wish to see it such. But the village is likely in the future, as in the past, to witness a steady and solid growth.

There is one improvement we should be glad to chronicle—one which we at least hope will be chronicled by the next editor of the History of Cooperstown—and that is, the erection in this village of note in the United States, and of all others in this country best and most widely known throughout Europe, by reputation, of a Library and Art Building worthy the name of the place. In time, and probably at no very distant day, a Village Hall and Firemen's Building will doubtless be erected ; let it be a credit to Cooperstown.

“THE GLIMMERGLASS.”

Although the varied charms of the landscapes surrounding Cooperstown, attractive in themselves, and rendered still more fascinating by the magic pen of Cooper, cannot fail to be sources of exquisite delight to all lovers of the beautiful in nature, it is the “Glimmerglass,” haunted with the wraiths and shades of the creations of the great Novelist, lying as pure and fair as on creation’s first day,

“Among the pine-clad mountains,
Forever smiling upward to the skies,”

that appeals most to the fancy and dwells longest in the mind.

In the romance of the “Deerslayer,” the chief charm of association lies on the Lake and its shores; its scenes being laid almost wholly on its waters or upon the land immediately surrounding them, and with such accuracy is every point, cove and shoal portrayed, and made the scene of some romantic incident or deed of daring, that it is difficult to believe that the facts and characters were creations of fiction, so deftly and with such a semblance of reality are they portrayed.

Although the description of the Lake as seen by Deerslayer, is that of its appearance prior to the year 1760, it remains in all essential particulars the same beautiful gem as when, undisturbed by the hand of man, the fringing forests were mirrored in its glassy surface; and the impression it produced on the mind of Deerslayer, a mind peculiarly sensitive and appreciative of the beauties of nature, may well bear repetition in these pages:

An exclamation of surprise broke from the lips of Deerslayer, an exclamation that was low and guardedly made, however, for his habits were much more thoughtful and regulated than those of the reckless Hurry, when, on reaching the margin of the lake, he beheld the view that unexpectedly met his gaze. It was, in truth, sufficiently striking to merit a brief description. On a level with the point lay a broad sheet of water, so placid and limpid, that it resembled a bed of the pure mountain atmosphere, compressed into a setting of hills and woods. Its length was about three leagues, while its breadth was irregular, expanding to half a league, or even more, opposite to

the point, and contracting to less than half that distance, more to the southward. Of course, its margin was irregular, being indented by bays, and broken by many projecting, low points. At its northern, or nearest end, it was bounded by an isolated mountain, lower land falling off east and west, gracefully relieving the sweep of the outline. Still the character of the country was mountainous; high hills, or low mountains, rising abruptly from the water, on quite nine tenths of its circuit. The exceptions, indeed, only served a little to vary the scene; and even beyond the parts of the shore that were comparatively low, the back-ground was high, though more distant.

But the most striking peculiarities of this scene were its solemn solitude and sweet repose. On all sides, wherever the eye turned, nothing met it but the mirror-like surface of the lake, the placid view of heaven, and the dense setting of woods. So rich and fleecy were the outlines of the forest, that scarce an opening could be seen, the whole visible earth, from the rounded mountain-top to the water's edge, presenting one unvaried hue of unbroken verdure. As if vegetation were not satisfied with a triumph so complete, the trees overhung the lake itself, shooting out towards the light; and there were miles along its eastern shore, where a boat might have pulled beneath the branches of dark Rembrandt-looking hemlocks, "quivering aspens," and melancholy pines. In a word, the hand of man had never yet defaced or deformed any part of this native scene, which lay bathed in the sunlight, a glorious picture of affluent forest-grandeur, softened by the balminess of June, and relieved by the beautiful variety afforded by the presence of so broad an expanse of water.

"This is grand!—'tis solemn!—'tis an edication of itself, to look upon!" exclaimed Deerslayer, as he stood leaning on his rifle, and gazing to the right and left, north and south, above and beneath, in whichever direction his eye could wander; "not a tree disturbed even by red-skin hand, as I can discover, but everything left in the ordering of the Lord, to live and die according to his own designs and laws!

"This is a sight to warm the heart!" exclaimed Deerslayer, when they had thus stopped for the fourth or fifth time; "the lake seems made to let us get an insight into the noble forests; and land and water, alike, stand in the beauty of God's providence! Right glad am I that Chingachgook appointed our meeting on this lake, for, hitherto, eye of mine never looked on such a glorious spectacle."

"Have the Governor's or the King's people given this lake a name?" he suddenly asked, as if struck with a new idea.

"They've not got to that, yet; and the last time I went in with skins, one of the King's surveyors was questioning me concerning

all the region hereabouts. He had heard that there was a lake in this quarter, and had got general notions about it, such as that there was water and hills ; but how much of either, he knowed no more than you know of the Mohawk tongue."

"I'm glad it has no name," resumed Deerslayer, "or, at least, no pale-face name ; for their christenings always foretell waste and destruction. No doubt, howsever, the red-skins have their modes of knowing it, and the hunters and trappers, too ; they are likely to call the place by something reasonable and resembling."

"As for the tribes, each has its own tongue, and its own way of calling things ; and they treat this part of the world just as they treat all others. Among ourselves, we've got to calling the place the 'Glimmerglass,' seeing that its whole basin is so often fringed with pines, cast upward from its face ; as if it would throw back the hills that hang over it."

Deerslayer made no answer ; but he stood leaning on his rifle, gazing at the view which so much delighted him. The reader is not to suppose, however, that it was the picturesque alone which so strongly attracted his attention. The spot was very lovely, of a truth, and it was then seen in one of its most favorable moments, the surface of the lake being as smooth as glass and as limpid as pure air, throwing back the mountains, clothed in dark pines, along the whole of its eastern boundary, the points thrusting forward their trees even to nearly horizontal lines, while the bays were seen glittering through an occasional arch beneath, left by a vault fretted with branches and leaves. It was the air of deep repose—the solitudes, that spoke of scenes and forests untouched by the hands of man—the reign of nature, in a word, that gave so much pure delight to one of his habits and turn of mind. Still, he felt, though it was unconsciously, like a poet also. If he found a pleasure in studying this large, and, to him, unusual opening into the mysteries and forms of the woods, as one is gratified in getting broader views of any subject that has long occupied his thoughts, he was not insensible to the innate loveliness of such a landscape neither, but felt a portion of that soothing of the spirit which is a common attendant of a scene so thoroughly pervaded by the holy calm of nature.

The deep forests that then covered the western shores have long since disappeared, and are replaced by the gently rising, green-clad slopes of fertile farms. But the eastern shores still retain their verdant covering, birches and maples crowding together near the water, and the dark, whispering pines and "Rembrandt-looking hemlocks" rising to the very summit of the mountains, where in relief against the blue

sky, these Titans of the forest seem to be standing guard over the beautiful scene below.

On no country have the charms of nature been more prodigally lavished than on ours. Her mighty lakes, her mountains and valleys teeming with fertility, her thundering cataracts, her boundless plains, broad, deep rivers, her trackless forests, rich with all the magnificence of vegetation, her skies "kindling with the magic of summer clouds and glorious sunshine," are in sublimity and beauty excelled by the natural scenery of no country. But the charms of storied and poetical association are sadly wanting in America. We have few shrines in our youthful land, so identified with romantic or historic incidents, as by their association with some achievement of renown to attract pilgrims thither; and thus do we especially treasure a scene over which some master hand has thrown a halo of romance, such as is "The Glimmerglass," hallowed by the master mind of Cooper, and consecrated to memories of the past, when, congenial to all the habits of the red man, it was a favorite meeting ground and frequent haunt of those tribes, whose representatives appear in the characters created by our great novelist in his faithful representations of life in the primitive days of our country.

Although it is not accurately known who was the first white man to stand upon the shores of Lake Otsego, it may be conjectured that the first footsteps imprinted by a white man on the soil of Cooperstown, were those of some Dutch adventurer from Fort Orange, moved to penetrate into the territory of the friendly tribes of the Mohawk, in quest of furs, the fur trade being carried on extensively by the Hollanders. But although some Dutch tradesman may have looked on the beautiful basin, fished in its waters and hunted in the forests, and returned to the Fort with a report of the existence of such a sheet of water, the attention of the early colonists seems to have been turned in other directions, and for many years the little lake lay forgotten in its seclusion; and the first visit of the "pale face" to the shores of the Otsego, of which we have an authenticated record, was in 1737, as recorded on page vi.

So this "Lake of the Hills" lay unseen, except by an occasional explorer, and the red man of the forest, who, as he trod the mountains, "green-belted with eternal pines," that walled this "smile of God"

around, looked down upon its cool, sweet waters, or in his birch canoe glided over its gentle waves, until about a century ago, when were laid the foundations of that flourishing settlement, which has since developed into the beautiful hamlet lying at its southern extremity.

From the village, nestling in the hills at its southern border, the "Glimmerglass" stretches northward for a distance of about nine miles. But the deeply indented shores produce a peculiar effect of distance, and it is difficult to believe that the densely wooded "Sleeping Lion," guarding the northern shore, that "isolated mountain" standing so boldly against the sky, which attracted Deerslayer's attention, lies only three leagues from "fair Mount Vision sleeping at its feet." At the foot of Mount Vision, the Susquehanna leaves the Lake in a little stream, stealing away under overshadowing trees, on its winding way toward the sea. Although not so densely fringed with foliage as in the days of Deerslayer, it is still sufficiently embowered as to give the stream in many places a most romantic look, and to make it a favorite retreat for rowing parties.

The eastern shore of the lake, on account of its precipitous sides, was unfitted to be the scene of any of those dramas of Indian warfare, in whose portrayal Cooper was so happy, and hence it figures very little in the pages of romance. Although these mountains, varying in height from four to six hundred feet, stand clothed in forest, in most places, from the shores to the crest, a pleasant farm occasionally nestles among the trees, relieving the steepness of their slopes. Here, about a mile from the village, and commanding one of the most extensive views of the vicinity, is situated "the Chalet," Cooper's farm, where in daily communion with nature he obtained the relaxation so necessary to one of his great mental activity. The picturesque wildness of this eastern shore invests it with a peculiar charm, and it is dotted with attractive rustic lodges for camping parties, which during the entire summer are tenanted with merry companies, enjoying in a free and easy fashion, boating, fishing, and the cool mountain air.

"Kingfisher Tower," erected by Mr. Edward Clark in 1876, on Point Judith, about two miles up the Lake, adds much to the picturesqueness of the Lake scenery, and with the tasteful Swiss chalet hidden among the dense foliage of the mass of verdure crowning the

point, heightens the impression of its semblance, so often noted by travelers, to the lake views of Scotland and Switzerland. The drive along this side of the Lake is singularly beautiful, offering charming vistas of the Lake, the fertile farms and graceful points of the western shore through the openings in the trees, and with the overarching boughs of the open woods, lying in many places on both sides, affording a charming sense of seclusion.

The range of mountains bounding the Lake on the east, terminates in a lofty rise directly opposite the village, called Mount Vision, from the unrivaled view of the Lake, village, and valley of the Susquehanna. From its western slopes Judge Cooper received the first view of his domain and the "Glimmerglass," and a graphic description of the scene as it then appeared is put in the mouth of Judge Temple in "The Pioneers." The "Vision" also was the scene of Leatherstocking's brave rescue of fair Elizabeth Temple from the panther's claws; and just beyond the site of this scene, on the lower slope of the mountain, lies that beautiful "city of the dead," Lake-wood Cemetery, in the midst of which is the Cooper monument, gleaming out from the surrounding pines, surmounted by a figure of the honest hearted Leatherstocking, loading his trusty rifle "Killdeer," his faithful hound crouching at the feet of his master, who gazes off over the "Glimmerglass," the Lake he loved so well, spread out beneath him. A brief history of the monument will be found in the closing chapter of this book.

A climb up the precipitous mountain side beyond the Cemetery, is rewarded by a sight of "Leatherstocking's Cave," which afforded Elizabeth Temple a refuge from the forest fire, and which was the scene of Captain Hollister's gallant charge at the head of the "Templeton Light Infantry." It hardly deserves so ambitious a name, being simply a small opening in the rocks, on which the thin covering of earth supports but a few craggy trees, or rather, bushes. Directly opposite this cavern, on the lake, a fine and distinct echo is obtained from this steep and rocky shore, calls being repeated up the mountain almost as distinctly as in the boats of the visiting party.

But it is on the western shore of the Lake that the interest chiefly centers, as on its wooded banks were enacted most of the thrilling incidents delineated in the pages of "Deerslayer," and its many points

are all identified with some vivid description of romantic or warlike incident.

As we move northward we first encounter a long, low, curving point of land thrusting itself into the lake somewhat in the shape of a sickle, and enclosing a small but picturesque bay named the "Rats' Cove," from its being the favorite haunt of the muskrat, but which later has received the more euphonious title of "Blackbird Bay." Here, after scouring the entire western shore from the "Castle" southward to this point, in quest of its master, old Tom Hutter, and his family, Hurry Harry and Leatherstocking, hoped to find the ark lying. Just beyond this cove, Mr. Cooper in his early married life put up and nearly completed a stone mansion, near the present house, meantime supervising his extensive farm, reaching from the Lake shore some distance over the hills to the westward, and bearing the name "Fenimore," bestowed by its owner at that time—a name which it still retains. The stone house was burned before it was ready for occupancy, in 1823. For several years this property was owned by the late Judge Samuel Nelson, he having purchased it in 1829, and enlarged and improved the dwelling, for some time occupied by Mr. Cooper.

Next in order to the northward is the shorter tongue of land, covered with a beautiful growth of verdure, bearing the name "Brookwood Point," and the site of a fine summer residence. Further northward a mile, lies the spot of all most frequented by pleasure seekers, and the scene of some of the most impressive events of the "Deerslayer," formerly called "Wild Rose Point" but more recently, in accordance with the strict spirit of enumeration, known by the prosaic name, Three Mile Point. This place was especially dear to Cooper, who took great delight in the gatherings held here, even from his early boyhood, Judge Cooper having set it apart as a picnic ground for parties of friends on the pleasant days of summer. At that time it was still in a wild condition, and is said in its absolute seclusion to have been even more beautiful than to-day. In the words of the novelist's daughter, Miss Susan Fenimore Cooper :

"Jutting out into the limpid waters of the Lake at the foot of a wooded height, lined with a clean pebbly beach, crowned with a noble growth of oak, elm, pine, and beech, their limbs garlanded with vines,

it would seem to have gathered within its narrow limits every woodland charm. A limpid spring, remarkable for the coolness and sweetness of its water, rose from among the gravel of the beach, at the very root of ancient trees; a wild brawling brook coming down from the hills had torn for itself a rude channel, adding variety to the ground, and often blending the troubled murmur of its waters with the gentle play of the ripple on the beach. Azaleas and wild roses formed a luxuriant natural shrubbery, while the pitcher-plant, the moccasin flower, gentians, blue and white, with brilliant lobelias were also found here, blended with other native blossoms."

The forests which then surrounded it on every side, have long since been cleared away, and where formerly the rich growth of the unbroken wood clothed the hill rising from the Point, a pleasant hostelry stands, noted for the dainty dinners it serves, at which the finny delicacies of the lake figure in all their glory. The wild roses which then clambered over the Point in such great profusion, giving the name to the Point, have long since disappeared, and the noble oaks owe their destruction to the fishermen's fires built at their roots. But the little brook stealing down from the hills, still ripples over the pebbles, and spanned by a rustic bridge adds much to the beauty of the scene. Enough of the trees remain to form a grove, affording a most grateful shade, the little spring still supplies its cooling draughts, and the pebbly beach sparkles in the sunlight. Rustic seats are here and there visible under the trees, and behind the Point where the hill rises toward the right, a quaint little observatory, built in a rustic fashion between the trees, affords a sightly lookout over the dancing waters and the village in the distance. Ample facilities are here provided for picnic parties, tables being conveniently arranged under the trees and a small building for cooking, standing in a retired position, partially concealed from view. A rude but roomy building on the higher ground of the Point offers opportunities for the "light fantastic," and often in the pleasant summer evenings do these leafy arches ring with the "sounds of revelry" proceeding from this structure, tenanted for a few hours by some merry party from the village three miles distant, attracted thither by the anticipation of a sail on the moon-lit waters of the beautiful "Glimmerglass," as well as the pleasures of the dance in this quiet, sylvan retreat.

Here it was that Deerslayer and his Indian companion, Chingach-

gook, disembarked to effect the release of the latter's betrothed, Waha-ta-wah, and that Deerslayer sacrificed himself for his friend, in remaining himself a prisoner, having accomplished the heroic rescue of Hist and her lover; and here it is that Hetty lands in her errand of mercy to her father and Hurry Harry.

As a matter of some interest pertaining to this Point, it may be stated that Judge Cooper in his will left that part of the property, comprising one acre, to the youngest child in descent bearing his name and living in the year 1850. The ownership under this devise now rests in William Cooper of Baltimore, the grand-son of the Judge. By him it was in 1871 leased for a term of 25 years to the "Village Improvement Society of Cooperstown," who now control it in the interest of the public.

"Five Mile Point," is a favorite rendezvous for visitors, both on account of its natural beauty and the fish dinners served at the comfortable "Five Mile Point House," of which it is the site. Back of the Point is a most picturesque rocky gorge, called "Mohegan Glen," through which runs a purling brook, and from the crevices of whose rocky sides peep out great clumps of fern and rose. A more refreshing retreat than this shady little ravine on a sultry summer day, cannot be imagined.

"Hutter's Point," just above, is one of the few localities whose name recalls its traditions. From its gravelly shore Deerslayer first looked upon the "Glimmerglass," lying glorious in its green setting, a fair mirror of the woods and skies, beneath the warm June sun, and here we can imagine him leaning on his gun, looking out in wondering admiration over the quiet waters and giving voice to the brief description: "This is grand!—'tis solemn!—'tis an edication of itself to look upon!"

Looking to the eastward across the lake, a faint discoloration of the water is perceptible, this being the spot now known as the "sunken island," which was the site of the log cabin, "Muskrat Castle" of Hutter, and the grave of the mother of Judith and Hetty. The waters of the Lake, in most other places of great depth, here shoal to but a few feet, making it well adapted for such a structure, the position of which would have been of great advantage to the early settler, although Cooper clearly asserts that Hutter's "Castle"

never existed. The Lake here attains its greatest width, stretching from Hutter's Point about two miles into Clarke's Bay, overlooking which, on the slopes of Mount Wellington, the walls of the English manor house, "Hyde Hall," peer forth from among the darkling pines.

Passing down the Lake from Hutter's Point, we would follow the course taken by the canoe of Hurry Harry and Deerslayer, in their search for Hutter, and just at the entrance to the river we find the rounded, bee-hive shaped rock designated by Deerslayer as his point of meeting with Chingachgook, well known to all the Indians of that part of the country as a place of rendezvous.

The facilities for navigation are manifold. Besides the trim little steamers "Natty Bumppo," and the "Pioneer," which ply regularly up and down the Lake, connecting at the northern end with a well-equipped line of stages and four-in-hands for Richfield Springs, there is the neat little steam launch the "Gem," always at the service of private parties, and fleets of row boats and sailing yachts, daintily painted and well furnished, lying at the village docks, at the service of pleasure seekers.

Cooper's prophecy, in 1838, that "half a century hence the shores of the Lake will be lined with country residences," seems on a fair way toward fulfillment, as several beautiful villas already adorn the southern and northern shores, and it is probable that the number will be largely increased in the coming years, as each year an increasing number of visitors are seeking a refuge from the heat and discomfort of the city, by the shores of the "Haunted Lake."

Although there may be other Lakes as beautiful, with scenery as bright and diversified, it would be difficult to find another spot combining all the advantages of the "Glimmerglass." The graceful bays and wooded Points, with their "maple masses sleeping where shore with water blends," the somber pine forests that crown its mountain tops, the silver streams that thread its lowlands, its winding roads with their woodland borders, and the enchanting air of romance that ever haunts its shores and waters, with the fond skies leaning above it, warm with blessing, render Otsego peculiarly attractive to the lover of the beautiful. And as from thy wooded rim we gaze off over thy quiet waters, mirroring the mountains which, uplift-

ing against the blue walls of the sky stretch away in wavy lines, we are assured that

“O’er no sweeter Lake
Shall morning break or noon-cloud sail ;
No fairer face than thine shall take
The sunset’s golden veil.”

And may

“Thy peace rebuke our feverish stir,
Thy beauty our deforming strife ;
Thy woods and waters minister
The healing of their life.”

C. M. H.

THE VILLAGE INTERESTS.

THE CORPORATION OF COOPERSTOWN.

The grounds at first laid out for the village of Cooperstown, in 1799, comprised only 112 acres. In 1806 the *Otsego Herald* began to discuss the project of obtaining an act of incorporation. This was done the following year, under the name of "The Village of Otsego," which was retained for five years, during which period there was considerable dissatisfaction on account of the change from the original name by which it had been designated by common consent. On the 12th of June, 1812, by an act of the Legislature, the former name of "Cooperstown" was restored to the village.

The charter was mainly written by Hon. John A. Dix, then a resident of this village. Amendments were adopted at later periods.

In 1829, and again at a more recent period, the bounds of the village were extended. The first charter election was held at the Court House, May, 1807.

The population of the village is given at different periods as follows : In 1790, 100 ; in 1810, 544, of whom 12 were slaves ; in 1820, 783 ; in 1830, 1,300 ; in 1855, when there was quite a number of Seminary students living here, 1,710 ; in 1860, 1,576 ; in 1865, 1,618 ; in 1880, 2,198. The present population is about 2,600—or say 3,000, including those living on the immediate borders of the village, and likely soon to be embraced within its corporate limits.

The following gentlemen comprise the Board of Village Trustees, January 1, 1886 : I. E. Sylvester, Delos L. Birge, Lyman H. Hills, Harvey K. Murdock, Marcus Field, Norman L. Mason. Clerk and Treasurer, Wm. P. K. Fuller ; Constable and Collector, Joseph F. Mitchell. At the Charter election held in March, when the terms of two Trustees expired and there were also two vacancies to fill, the following officers were chosen : Trustees, for full term, John G. Fowler and G. Pomeroy Keese, for two years, Albert Lane, for one year, James A. Lynes ; Clerk and Treasurer, Frank Mulkins ; Constable and Collector, Wm. J. Caldwell ; Assessors, John W. Smith, Wheeler Drake, Thomas Taylor.

THE STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

There are on the corporation of Cooperstown, the county buildings, six church edifices, seven hotels, a large summer boarding house, 416

dwellings, 80 stores, engine house, orphanage, rink, shops, &c., located as follows :

Main street—Court House and Jail ; 36 stores, over 16 of which there are apartments occupied as residences ; 4 hotels, 35 dwellings, 4 meat markets, 1 engine house, 2 barber shops, 2 saloons or restaurants with residence above, 1 harness shop, 2 photographic rooms, 1 marble shop, planing and flouring mills and office ; 2 banks, 2 blacksmith shops ; there are 2 printing offices, a cabinet shop, doctor's and dental and lawyers' offices, and several hop offices, in the second stories of the stores ; the public hall is in the "iron clad" building.

Pioneer street—Two churches, 1 chapel, 2 hotels, 42 dwellings, 1 saloon with office over, 4 stores with offices or dwellings over, boat office and shop, engine house, wagon and blacksmith shop, meat market.

Chestnut street—Hotel, rink, 2 stores, 52 dwellings, 2 shops ; also, four dwellings just beyond the railroad crossing, which will soon be included in the corporation limits.

Bay street—Nine dwellings, one shop for boat-building.

Beaver street—Orphanage, fourteen dwellings.

Church street—Ten dwellings

Delaware street—Twenty-two dwellings. Immediate vicinity, just off present corporation line, six dwellings.

Eagle street—Twenty-three dwellings.

Elk street—Five dwellings.

Eln street—Three churches, thirty-four dwellings.

Fair street—Fifteen dwellings, one shop.

Glen avenue—Six dwellings.

Grove street—Ten dwellings.

Hill street—Five dwellings.

Lake street—Thirty-seven dwellings, four shops.

Leatherstocking street—Sixteen dwellings.

Maple street—Six dwellings.

Mill street—The brick pumping house of the Cooperstown Aqueduct Association.

Nelson avenue—One large summer boarding house, two dwellings.

Pine street—Nine dwellings.

Railroad street—Depot, three stores, two dwellings.

River street—One church and chapel, seventeen dwellings, one beer bottling house.

Rock street—One dwelling.

Spring street—Four dwellings.

Susquehanna avenue—Union School house, twenty-eight dwellings.

Total, 510 structures exclusive of barns, stables and carriage houses. In 1838, Mr. Cooper reported the number then standing at 253—one

half the present number. About three-fourths of this increase has occurred during the last 24 years. All of the business places, and every dwelling with a single exception—a new house which has since been sold—are now occupied.

The praise which Mr. Cooper bestows upon the several fine dwellings and stores to be seen in Cooperstown in 1838, may justly be increased now, when viewing the new County buildings, Hotel Fenimore and other hotels on Main street, the Cooper House, the new Catholic church and parsonage, the several fine iron, brick and stone stores erected on and near the "burnt district" of 1862, the mansions of Mrs. Carter, Mr. A. Corning Clark, Dr. Robert V. McKim, the large number of fine residences which line Chestnut and some newer streets, including those just erected on upper Main street. All go to mark the great improvements made in the appearance of the village during the past quarter of a century.

THE CHURCHES.

The general condition of the several churches in Cooperstown, is doubtless as prosperous now as at any former period within the past quarter of a century. Two or three of them have increased in membership during that time, and all are at peace among themselves.

PRESBYTERIAN.—The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1795; Society constituted June, 1800. House of worship dedicated August 6, 1807. On three or four occasions it has been partly rebuilt and greatly improved. Clergymen:

1. Elisha Mosely, 1795—not settled as pastor.
2. Isaac Lewis, from 1800 to 1805.
3. William Neill, from 1806 to 1809.
4. John Smith, from 1811 to 1834.
5. Alfred E. Campbell, from 1834 to 1848.
6. Charles K. McHarg, from 1848 to 1850.
7. J. Ad tison Priest, from 1851 to 1855.
8. Samuel W. Bush, from 1855 to 1862.
9. J. Addison Priest, from 1862 to 1864.
10. William W. Newell, Jr., from 1864 to 1865.
11. Charles K. McHarg, from 1865 to 1870.
12. George R. Alden, from 1870 to 1872.
13. Frederick B. Savage, from 1873 to 1875.
14. Newell Woolsey Wells, from 1875 to 1881.
15. Eugene Peck, from 1881 to 1882.
16. Charles Hudson Smith, from 1883 to 1885.
17. James O. Denniston, from 1885—present Pastor.

This society owns a large and convenient chapel, that will comfort-

ably seat 230 people. A new parsonage will probably be built during 1886, as a fund is being established for that purpose.

EPISCOPALIAN.—Christ Church, Cooperstown, was organized January 1, 1811. The church edifice was erected previously, and was dedicated by Bishop Moore on the 8th of July, 1810. A few years ago it was enlarged and rendered more beautiful, at a cost of about \$7,000. Its clergy have been :

1. Daniel Nash, from 1811 to 1828.
2. Frederick T. Tiffany, from 1828 to 1845.
3. Alfred B. Beach, from 1845 to 1848.
4. Stephen H. Battin, from 1848 to 1858.
5. Stephen H. Synnott, from 1858 to 1866.
6. David H. Buel, from 1867 to 1872.
7. Philip A. H. Brown, from 1872 to 1874.
8. Brady E. Backus, from 1874 to 1876.
9. Wm. W. Lord, from 1876 to 1882.
10. Casper M. Wines, from 1883 to 1884.
11. Charles S. Olmsted, from 1884—is the present Rector.

This church owns a neat and convenient chapel, used for Sunday School and other purposes. Also, a parsonage, and a charity house, with four apartments, for small and needy families. A fund is being accumulated for the building of a new rectory.

METHODIST.—This church was organized October 22, 1816. It has had two buildings previous to that now occupied on Elm street, which was improved a few years ago at a cost of about \$3,000. Its Clergy have been :

Rev. Messrs. Chase, Benjamin, Paddock, Roper, Shank, Ercanbrack, Bixby, Martin, Marvin, Grant, Bristol, Row, D. W. Bristol, E. G. Andrews, Chas. Blakeslee, S. Comfort, M. L. Kern, John Crippen, J. L. Wells, G. W. Bridge, John Pilkinton, Isaac D. Peasley, Willis L. Thorp, Henry M. Cridenwise, Wm. Wadsworth, Alancon S. Clark, Wm. M. Hiller, John C. Leacock, Ambrose J. Cook, Amasa F. Chaffee—the present Pastor. We cannot give the length of time each of these gentlemen was here.

This church owns a good parsonage.

UNIVERSALIST.—“Church of the Messiah”—This society was organized April 26, 1831, and the house of worship erected the following year. Twice since then considerable money has been spent in remodeling the same. The church or ecclesiastical organization took place August 21, 1858. Its Clergy have been :

1. Job Potter, from April, 1831, to April, 1836.
2. O. Whiston, from April, 1836, to Dec., 1846.

3. J. A. Bartlett, from April, 1847, to Nov., 1849.
4. D. C. Tomlinson, from Nov., 1849, to June, 1850.
5. T. J. Carney, from June, 1850, to April, 1851.
6. J. A. Aspinwall, from April, 1851, to April, 1854.
7. Charles W. Tomlinson, from August, 1854, to Dec., 1865.
8. W. W. Clayton, from March, 1866, to March, 1868.
9. Orrin Perkins, from March, 1868, to July, 1869.
10. C. L. Wait, from Nov., 1869, to Nov., 1875.
11. Ellery E. Peck, from April, 1876, to 1881.
12. Samuel G. Davis, from 1881 to 1882.
13. George W. Patten, from 1882—is the present Pastor.

BAPTIST.—This society was organized January 21, 1834. It at one time owned the land on which now stand the two dwellings east of the church. It held a centennial celebration in January, 1884; sermon by Rev. Everett R. Sawyer, a former pastor. Its clergy have been :

1. Lewis Raymond, from 1834 to 1842.
2. Stephen Hutchins, from 1842 to 1843.
3. John A. Nash, 1843.
4. Francis Prescott, from 1843 to 1847.
5. R. G. Toles, from 1848 to 1849.
6. G. W. Gates, from 1849 to 1852.
7. E. S. Davis, from 1852 to 1853.
8. M. C. Manning, from 1854 to 1856.
9. S. T. Livermore, from 1856 to 1862.
10. E. R. Sawyer, from 1862 to 1867.
11. H. D. Burdick, from 1868 to 1869.
12. Charles C. Smith, from 1869 to 1874.
13. George B. Vosburgh, from 1874 to 1876.
14. Frank J. Parry, from 1877 to 1882.
15. Warren G. Partridge, from 1882—is the present Pastor.

This society owns a small chapel and a parsonage. In 1870 its house of worship was enlarged and improved at a cost of about \$4,000. The need of a larger house is now felt. Mr. Raymond, the first pastor, is still living.

CATHOLIC.—St. Mary's Church was organized September, 1847, and the first small church edifice was built in 1851, at a cost of about \$300; would seat about 100 persons. It was located corner of Elm and Susquehanna streets. Its present large brick edifice was erected in 1876-77. It is already found to be too small for the congregation. The brick parsonage, a very fine residence, was built in 1884-85. The whole property has cost about \$35,000.

Rev. Father Kilbride of Albany, was the first clergyman, who came here in 1847, and said Mass in the house of James McNally, on Elm street to a congregation of 14 persons. The church now embraces a membership of about 1,000, including the children. Succeeding clergymen have been as follows :

2. Rev. M. B. Constantine, came in 1849, and remained one year.

3. Rev. M. C. Kenney, from 1850 to 1852.

4. Rev. Jonathan Furlong, came here in 1852, and was the first resident pastor. In 1853 confirmation was given to about 25 persons, by Bishop McCloskey, then of Albany. During Father Furlong's pastorate of three years, the church attained a membership of about 100, and the present ground of St. Mary's church was bought ; afterwards lost by foreclosure of mortgage. He also officiated at stated periods, in seven or eight other villages, performing an extensive missionary work.

5. Rev. P. Fitzpatrick, Amsterdam, came to Cooperstown, as an out-mission, once in six weeks, from 1855 to 1860.

6. Rev. William Carroll succeeded, in 1860, and was pastor for three years. During that period, in 1862, the cemetery was purchased and consecrated.

7. Rev. Father Clark became pastor in 1863, and a subscription was started to regain lost property. First the lot on which now stands the house of Mr. W. H. Bunn was purchased ; but it was deemed too small for the purpose, and it was exchanged for the present location, accomplished through the kind offices of Mr. Andrew Shaw. A fund for the brick church was started.

8. In 1865, Rev. John Murphy and Rev. Father McCurry were the pastors, and about \$1,400 was accumulated toward the new church.

9. Rev. John J. Brennan became the pastor in 1866, and remained three years. The corner stone of the new church was laid June 29, 1867, by the Right Rev. John J. Conroy, with imposing ceremonies, assisted by a number of Priests. Seating capacity 350 ; congregation then about 250. Present seating capacity about 600, and inadequate to the wants of the congregation.

10. Rev. M. C. Devitt succeeded to the pastorate in 1869, and remained nine years. Doubtless his unceasing hard work led to his early death in 1878, at the age of 38 years.

11. Rev. M. J. Hughes, assigned to this now large and important charge in 1878, remains the present pastor.

We give the history of this church, now the largest in Cooperstown, more fully, as it was not organized at the time Mr. Cooper wrote his *Chronicles* and briefly sketched the other churches of the village.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

UNION SCHOOL AND ACADEMY.

The Union School building was first occupied in the fall of 1869. The Trustees then in office were Dr. Horace Lathrop, William H. Ruggles and Samuel W. Bingham ; Clerk, Ellery P. Cory ; Librarian, James I. Hendryx. Teachers, grammar department : H. G. Howe, Miss Martha A. Ball, Miss M. K. Gaylord ; intermediate department, Miss Sabine ; 2d do., Miss Henrietta Reynolds ; 1st do., Mrs. Ellen F. Brower.

Organized as a Union Free School, October, 1871. First Board of Education : Dr. H. Lathrop, Samuel A. Bowen, William H. Ruggles. Teachers : John G. Wight, principal, Martha A. Ball, Margaret K. Gaylord ; Charles P. Thompson, intermediate department ; Sarah W. Shipway and Julia Draper, 2d primary department ; Miss B. J. Reed, 1st primary department. Board of Education, January, 1886 : Charles T. Brewer, Dr. H. Lathrop, B. F. Murdock ; treasurer, H. L. Hinman. Teachers, in academic and grammar department : John G. Wight, Martha A. Ball, Mary E. Burgess, Jennie L. Comstock, Carrie M. Hills, (German ;) intermediate department : Charles P. Thompson, Clara Matteson ; 2d primary department : Annie L. Crandall ; 1st do. : Emeline E. Niles ; music : Mrs. B. F. Austin. Present number of scholars about 500.

EARLY SCHOOL ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

In 1791 Joshua Dewey came here from Connecticut, and soon after opened the first school ever kept in Cooperstown. He was soon succeeded by Oliver Cory, who taught for several years.

In 1795 the sum of \$1,441 was subscribed toward the building of an Academy in Cooperstown, of which Judge Cooper gave one-half. The village then contained only about thirty-five families. The building was raised in the fall, and was opened early in 1796. The classics were never taught in this school.

In 1808 a select school was opened by Mr. and Mrs. Andrews.

In 1819 Rev. Mr. Molther opened an academy and boarding school.

In 1822 a female academy was started, but did not long survive.

A high school, for girls, spoken of in flattering terms, was kept here in 1828, by a Miss Gilbert, in the house now known as Edgewater, the residence of Mr. G. P. Keese.

About 1825, Luther C. Saxton built the Academy which till recently stood on the lot now owned and occupied by St. Mary's Church, and is now a tenement house on Susquehanna street. In it he kept a boy's school for several years, and taught the higher branches. He was succeeded by Rev. R. Nelson as teacher, who had been his assistant.

Other teachers occupied the same building at different periods as a school, up to about 1842.

There has been handed us a "catalogue and circular of Otsego Academy, 1840-'41," setting forth the advantages of that institution. The Trustees were C. Graves, H. Phinney, Wm. Clark, G. A. Starkweather, S. Crippen and S. Doubleday; Rev. Reuben Nelson, principal, with four assistants, who taught higher English, French, and the ancient languages. Among the scholars still living we recognize the names of R. R. Nelson, John and C. A. Bowne, H. J. Bowers, W. A. Cook, Wm. A. Thayer, H. Lathrop, Jr., G. D. Hinman, Albert Tuthill, Wm. C. Parsons, W. K. Warren, Dorr Russell, John C. Graves, J. H. Prentiss, Jr., Fenimore Lewis, A. Barnum, Thos. M. Cook.

From about 1847 to 1850 Miss Huldah M. Palmer kept a young ladies' boarding and day school in the "Otsego Mansion," the large brick building on Fair street, now owned by Dr. Bassett. She employed one or two assistant teachers.

After the death of her husband in 1856, Mrs. Lewis R. Palmer opened a school on Elm street for young girls, and a few boys who had sisters in attendance were also admitted. This school, kept in three different buildings during its continuance, was maintained for about 12 years. Mrs. Palmer was assisted by her daughter Jeannie, and others. At a subsequent period Mrs. Palmer had charge of the intermediate department in the Seminary, under Dr. Kerr.

Rev. Doct. Bellows, who afterwards became prominent as a noted minister in the Unitarian Church, taught a classical school for boys in this village, about 1832 to 1834. At one time he occupied a building on the east side of Fair street; at another period, the second story of a store near Mr. Cory's, on Main street.

In December, 1838, Mr. Wm. H. Duff, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, opened a classical and military academy for boys, in the building now standing on the southeast corner of Lake and Chestnut streets. Mr. Duff came to the village endorsed by letters from Gen. Dix, whose son, the present Rector of Trinity Church, New York city, was a pupil of his in Albany. The school was removed the next season to the building which stood on Apple Hill, where Fernleigh mansion now stands. It was in successful operation for about three years, and the present Messrs. Phinney, Bowers, Cooper and Keese were among the "Duff boys" of that day. Clarence Seward was also a pupil for a year. Mr. Duff afterwards removed to Staten Island, and died of yellow fever as Captain of a company in the Mexican war.

For several years Miss M. A. Spafard kept a select school for young ladies, in the building now on the northwest corner of Main and Fair streets, which was highly regarded.

In 1852 E. L. Bangs taught a classical school.

The Cooperstown Seminary was built in 1854, and opened with 16 teachers and over 400 scholars. It ran a career of about 15 years and was then converted into a Summer Hotel.

THE VILLAGE PRESS.

The oldest newspaper now printed in Cooperstown is the Freeman's Journal, established in 1808. Probably of no other paper ever published in this country can it be said that two persons have conducted it for a period of 75 years: Col. Prentiss was its editor for nearly 41 years; he was succeeded by Daniel Shaw for something over two years; and in August 1851 it was purchased and has since been conducted by its present editor, S. M. Shaw. And here it may be stated as a fact of general interest, that 32 years before the establishment of the Freeman's Journal, there were only 37 newspapers published in the United States. In the year 1808 the publication of not far from 150 newspapers was commenced in this country—only four of which besides the Journal, are now published. When this paper was first issued, there were about 1,500 newspapers published in the United States, of which only 60 are now alive that are older than the Journal—and several of those have been maintained by the consolidation of two or more offices. There are now about 11,000 newspapers in the United States.

The Otsego Republican was established in 1828, under the title of the Tocsin, which it retained for three years. Andrew M. Barber was twice its editor; in all about sixteen years, closing at his death in 1855. Isaac K. Williams & Co. conducted it for about two years, closing in 1842. It is now owned and edited by Mr. Andrew Davidson, who was educated as a lawyer, served in the civil war, and has been connected with it as editor since 1874, and became sole proprietor in 1884.

The Otsego Farmer was established by Mr. Harvey I. Russell, in 1885.

The Otsego Herald or Western Advertiser was the first newspaper published in this county, having been issued April 3, 1795, by Elihu Phinney, who published it till his death in 1813, and his two sons continued it till 1821.

The Watch Tower was established in Cherry Valley in 1813; was removed to Cooperstown in 1814; published by Israel W. Clark until May, 1817, when Edward B. Crandal became its proprietor, and continued it until 1831, when the material was sold and removed to Adrian, Michigan.

Several other newspapers have had an existence here since then,

some of them a very brief one. The Otsego Democrat, established in 1847, was consolidated with the Republican in 1855.

In 1851 there were four newspapers published in this county; there are now fourteen—several of which are in part printed in the cities.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

TURNER POST, No. 26, GRAND ARMY REPUBLIC.—The veterans of the Civil War in this village and locality established a society under the above name, May 26, 1878. Capt. Andrew Davidson was the first Commander of the Post, and at present holds that office; A. J. Platts, Adjutant. The following are the present members:

Andrew Davidson,	Edwin M. Miller,	John Blunck,
J. F. Reustle,	U. B. Kendall,	Hugh E. Palmer,
J. F. Clark,	D. W. Bailey,	Horace E. Ingalls,
R. H. Bates,	C. R. Hartson,	John Shillito,
E. S. Collar,	Geo. D. Hyde,	F. A. Clark,
H. B. Walker,	Menzo W. Elwood,	Alfred Earing,
Chas. N. Merrills,	Addison Gardner,	Fred'k T. Jarvis,
F. G. Jarvis.	Elijah Butts,	Allen Dickenson,
Abram Van Nort,	Gardner Hollis,	Lester W. Murdock,
Henry Wood,	Geo. Becker,	E. F. Hubbell,
Jerry Parrish,	Abram J. Platts,	Moses D. Elwood,
Mort. Keough,	Horatio L. Perry,	F. G. Shepherd,
Jno. C. Lasher,	Emmet M. Irons,	John H. Loudan.
Ed. Barrett,	Chas. L. Davis,	

JAMES F. CLARK POST, No. 42, SONS OF VETERANS, was organized October, 1885, with Clarence W. Davidson as Commander, and Willis A. Bates as Adjutant. The members now belonging to this Post are:

Clarence W. Davidson,	James H. Loudan,	Edward Barrett, Jr.,
Charles A. Collar,	John H. Loudan,	Willis Gregory,
Willard A. Pier,	William Loudan,	Edward Decker,
Willis A. Bates,	E. Upton Lovejoy,	Geo. Earing,
Urvin D. Marsh,	Andrew Spencer,	William J. Caldwell,
Theo. C. Turner,	James Beavan,	Chester J. Parrish.

THE FREE MASONS first organized a Lodge in this village in March, 1796. The opening was attended with considerable ceremony. They had a dinner, and a ball on the evening of December 27, of that year. The organization is at this time in a flourishing condition. They also have a Chapter. Last year the lodge room was rendered very attractive by improvements and embellishments and new furniture, at an expense of about \$750.

ODD FELLOWS.—Otsego Lodge of Odd Fellows, No. 103, was insti-

tuted in this village January, 1844. Cutler Field was the first N. G. of the Lodge. It is now in a more flourishing condition than at any former period of its history. Mount Vision Encampment No. 15 was instituted February, 1848.

THE GOOD TEMPLARS have for several years maintained an organization here. At present this society is not as strong in numbers as it was at one time.

THE CATHOLIC BENEVOLENT LEGION, organized in 1885, and now numbering about forty members, is comprised wholly of members of the Catholic communion. It is a social organization, and a mutual life insurance society.

LITERARY AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

THE COOPERSTOWN LITERARY SOCIETY AND DEBATING CLUB, was organized by a few gentlemen of this village in the winter of 1881, and is still maintained. The Society owns a valuable though not large Reference Library. It holds weekly meetings during the winter and first spring months. Its present officers are : G. Pomeroy Keese, president ; Carlton B. Pierce, vice president ; A. J. Butler, secretary ; Chas. P. Thompson, Treasurer.

THE YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY ASSOCIATION, was organized in 1882, and is still maintained. Weekly meetings are held during the winter and first spring months. It has 21 active members.

THE COOPERSTOWN SHAKESPEARIAN SOCIETY, comprising thirteen ladies and gentlemen of the village, was organized in 1876. Weekly meetings for reading the plays of the great Poet, discussing the characters portrayed in them, reading of essays on kindred topics, &c., are held during the winter.

THE WHIST CLUB, of which about a score of ladies and gentlemen of the village are members, meets one evening in each week during the winter.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

of the village as now organized, is comprised as follows :

Chief Engineer—Marcus Field.

Assistant Engineers—Lee B. Cruttenden and Edwin S. Bundy.

PHINNEY HOSE Co., No. 1, has 38 members. W. A. Cockett, Foreman ; H. S. Coburn, 1st Assistant ; Wm. C. Bowers, 2d Assistant.

NELSON HOSE Co., No. 2, has 27 members. LeGrand A. Brainard, Foreman ; Jacob Bell, 1st Assistant ; Wm. H. Stockings, 2d Assistant.

WINNING HOSE Co., No. 3, has 23 members. Chas. P. Thompson, Foreman; Geo. D. Pennington, 1st Assistant; Wm. D. Boden, 2d Assistant.

MECHANICS' HOOK AND LADDER Co., No. 5, has 30 members. John Pank, Foreman; Bryan McCabe, Assistant.

NEPTUNE ENGINE Co., No. 3, has 9 members. William Russell, Foreman.

FERNLEIGH ENGINE is a new machine, and is not yet provided with a company. An effort will be made to do so at an early date, and also increase the membership of No. 3.

BANKS IN COOPERSTOWN.

An effort was made to obtain a charter for a Bank in this village in 1814, but the bill failed to pass the Assembly. The effort was renewed ten years later, and that failed in the Senate. Finally a charter was secured in 1830, and the Bank was promptly organized, with Robert Campbell for President, and Henry Scott as Cashier. The latter held that position for over forty years. It was subsequently changed to a National Bank, under its present title. In 1850 it was broken into and robbed of about \$30,000.

The Bank of Cooperstown was organized, mainly through the efforts of the late Frederick A. Lee, who was its first Cashier, in 1853. It is now the Second National.

The late John R. Worthington organized a Bank bearing his own name, in 1855, with a capital of \$50,000, and was its President and manager. It was afterwards called the "Worthington National Bank," and in 1871 Mr. Worthington sold the circulation to an Oneonta Bank, of which he became one of the directors.

Present officers of the First National Bank of Cooperstown: Edwin M. Harris, president; Charles K. McHarg, vice-president; Theodore C. Turner, cashier; George T. Brown, teller; Wm. P. K. Fuller, book-keeper. Directors: Edwin M. Harris, Charles K. McHarg, J. R. A. Carter, Theo. C. Turner, James Bunyan. Capital, \$150,000.

Present officers of the Second National Bank of Cooperstown: G. Pomeroy Keese, president; Luther I. Burditt, vice-president; Benj. M. Cady, cashier; Henry L. Hinman, assistant cashier and teller; George M. Jarvis, book-keeper; Sam'l H. Potter and Samuel D. Edick, assistants. Directors: G. Pomeroy Keese, Luther I. Burditt, Andrew Shaw, B. F. Murdock, Robert Quaif, Caleb Clark, George Brooks, Rufus P. Luce, David A. Avery. Capital, \$200,000.

THE AQUEDUCT ASSOCIATION.

In 1827 the legislature incorporated this association, with Elisha Foote, Henry Phinney, Robert Campbell, Lawrence McNamee, Wm. H. Averell and William Nichols as the original company. The capital stock remains at \$10,000, and it is mainly held by a few persons. The property now held has cost about \$50,000, and there is an indebtedness of about \$37,000, all but \$2,000 due to the estate of the late Mr. Edward Clark.

The present Board of Directors is composed of the following persons : Edwin M. Harris, president ; Stephen G. Browning, vice-president ; John L. McNamee, secretary and treasurer ; James Bunyan, superintendent, and Mrs. Jane R. Carter.

The policy of the Board is to expend the net earnings of the association in laying new iron mains in the streets of the village. The village has a contract with the association for supplying water for fire purposes, and there are now about 35 hydrants on the Corporation.

COOPERSTOWN AND S. V. RAILROAD COMPANY.

Capital stock paid in \$308,405, of which \$200,000 is owned by the town of Otsego, and \$50,000 by the town of Middlefield ; the balance by individuals. The road has cost about \$500,000. The debt is about \$115,000.

The officers of the road are Edwin M. Harris, president ; Charles R. Burch, vice-president ; B. M. Cady, secretary and treasurer. Directors : Edwin M. Harris, Charles R. Burch, Datus E. Siver, J. Warren Lamb, Geo. N. Bissell, Lancelot Taylor, Horace M. Hooker, James Bunyan, John F. Scott, Francis Hecox, Edwin S. Bundy, J. Fred Reustle, A. H. Watkins.

B. M. Cady, Secretary and Treasurer and G. T. A. ; R. W. Roundy, General Freight Agent ; R. D. Briggs, Master Mechanic ; Albert T. Van Horne, local Ticket and Freight Agent.

THE TELEPHONE.

The establishment of the telephone at this village was taken in hand by Mr. Paul T. Brady, in the fall of 1882, under whose supervision the first line was built, extending from Cooperstown to Oneonta. The office here was opened in Mr. Schrom's building, Dec. 15, 1882. Other lines were gradually constructed until now they run through every town in the county, and we are in communication by telephone with all the villages in the county, with but two exceptions, and with the general system in this part of the State. A central office was established at Mr. Reynolds's store June 18, 1883, with 13 subscribers ; changed to the Nelson block, Oct. 15, 1884, and there are now 70

instruments in the dwellings and business places of the village. There are very few places of no greater number of inhabitants in the United States that have so good a system or so many instruments. Mr Brady has charge of the office here, with four assistants, and a general supervision over a district comprising Otsego and the whole or a part of some other adjoining counties.

In March Superintendent Brady made arrangements whereby he receives daily telegrams from the Signal Service Bureau, of the weather probabilities for the twenty-four hours following. He erected a flag staff over the telephone office on Main street, and the flag is hoisted daily at 7 A. M. This is a matter of interest to all our citizens, and the enterprise and favor are duly appreciated.

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS MEN.

Of the 108 persons doing business in Cooperstown in the fall of 1851, only the following 15 remain so at this date: Luther I. Burditt, Dr. Thos S. Blodgett, Dr. E. P. Byram, Wm C. Bailey, Delos L. Birge, N. W. Cole, P. P. Cooper, George M. Grant, Samuel Harper, Geo. W. Holmes, Benj. F. Kipp, Albert Pierce, S. M. Shaw, P. G. Tanner, Lorenzo White. Seventy of the 108 have died, a few have retired from business, others have moved away.

PROFESSIONAL MEN.

PASTORS OF CHURCHES in Cooperstown: Baptist, Warren G. Partridge; Catholic, Rev. Michael J. Hughes; Episcopal, Rev. Charles S. Olmsted; Methodist, Amasa F. Chaffee; Presbyterian, Rev. James O. Denniston; Universalist, Rev. George W. Patten.

ATTORNEYS now in practice in the village of Cooperstown: Luther I. Burditt, George Brooks, Walter H. Bunn, Charles T. Brewer, M. C. Brady, Clarence L. Barber, George B. Cole, Samuel S. Edick, Edwin M. Harris, Frank P. Kendall, Chatfield Leonard, James A. Lynes, John Lewis, Edgar H. Lake, Carlton B. Pierce, Philip H. Potter, Frank L. Smith, Robert M. Townsend. There are other members of the Bar engaged in business, who do not practice law.

Mr. Walter H. Bunn is also U. S. Marshal of the Northern District of New York, and has his office in Cooperstown.

PHYSICIANS now in practice: O. H. Babbitt, William T. Bassett, Mary A. Bassett, Thomas S. Blodgett, Lyman H. Hills, Horace Lathrop.

SURGEON DENTISTS: Albert J. Butler, E. P. Byram, C. F. Campbell, Datus E. Siver, C. I. Wadsworth.

AGENTS, MERCHANTS, TRADERS, AND MECHANICS,

doing business in the village of Cooperstown, March 1, 1886 :

Accountants and Copyists.—Wm. Henry Merchant, Theodore S. Sayles, J. A. M. Johnston, Washington Wilson.

Agents.—James Bunyan, for A. Corning Clark ; G. Hyde Clarke and Tolman C. Smith, for George Clarke.

Apothecaries.—Jarvis & Bliss, Shumway & Church, John W. Richtmyer.

Auctioneer.—Theodore S. Sayles.

Bakers.—Jarvis & Bliss, Mrs. Ford Gray, Mrs. Sherwood.

Barbers.—Peter H. Hotaling, Frank A. Clark, Will J. Chapman.

Beer Bottling.—C. R. Hartson, A. J. Wykoff.

Blacksmiths and Wagon Makers.—Jerome Fish, George B. Wellman, A. Miller, Brockham & Converse, Theodore Ball, George W. Holmes & Son, Michael Little, Peter Best.

Boarding Houses.—"Templeton Lodge," by Mrs. Goodwin, Misses Doubleday, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Eldred, Mrs. J. R. Thompson.

Boat Builders.—A. H. Gazley, P. P. Cooper.

Boating.—P. P. Cooper, A. H. Gazley, J. H. Potter, James Kelley.

Book Agent.—James D. Ball.

Books and Stationery.—S. J. W. Reynolds.

Boots and Shoes.—Wm. C. Bailey, F. C. Smith & Co., Peter Conine & Son.

Brick Maker.—Philip H. Potter.

Carpenters.—Albert Pierce, Charles L. Root, Charles E. Scott, James W. Bolles, Peleg G. Smith, Wm. B. Wood, David Bice.

Cider Mill.—D. C. Coleman.

Cigar Makers.—Cornelius & Maybank.

Cloak Maker.—Miss Louisa Pickens.

Clothiers and Tailors.—Thomas Johnston, Spingler & Gould, "Boston Clothing House," Moses Maschke, Thomas Corwin.

Coal, Flour, Feed, &c.—Bowers & Son, John G. Fowler.

Coloring, and Hair Work.—Miss Mary Holmes.

Cooperage.—Orrin Benton.

Dress Makers.—Mrs. Doty, Miss Parshall, Mrs. Mallory and Sisters, Hunter Sisters, Misses Counrod & Chamberlain.

Dry Goods.—B. F. Murdock & Brother, Bundy Brothers, Robert Russell & Co., Gabriel Tyley, J. Fred Reustle, Richard Freeman.

Electrical Supplies and Type Writers.—Paul T. Brady.

Express.—Office of National Express Co., Allen Gallup, agent.

Florist.—Henry W. Gilmour.

Furniture.—George L. White, Charles D. Cook, Samuel Harper, Clarence G. Cook, maker of book cases &c.

Gas Works.—O. R. Butler, manager.

Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods.—Samuel S. Bowne.

Grist Mill.—"Pioneer Mills," owned by estate of Edward Clark, "Bowerstown Mills," by Cockett & Lewis.

Groceries.—Austin & Delong, Geo. M. Grant & Co., Arthur E. Wood, Nathan W. Cole.

Hardware and Stoves.—William E. Cory, H. M. Hooker & Co., J. Warren Lamb & Co., M. M. Millis. Plumbing and gas fitting by the three last named.

Harness, Trunks, &c.—Joel G. White, Leopold Lewus.

Hotels.—Cooper House by S. E. Crittenden, Hotel Fenimore by Jesse B. Brown, Central Hotel by Potter & Whipple, Carr's Hotel by L. A. Carr, Ballard House by Ballard & Millard, American Hotel by Albert Palmer, Clinton House by Mary McDonough.

Hop Merchants.—John F. Scott, Andrew Shaw, Robert Quaif, Lane, Avery & Co., Morgan R. Stocker, A. S. Murphy, T. W. Thayer, S. & F. Uhlman—represented by John Marsh, S. Jones, R. Palmer; Aiken & Weston—represented by S. M. Rose.

Ice.—J. H. Potter.

Insurance.—Jarvis & Hooker, I. E. Sylvester, D. L. Birge, Philip H. Potter, Floyd Shumway.

Jewelers.—Perry G. Tanner, Charles R. Burch, Jasper A. Schrom.

Lake Steamers.—A. H. Watkins, P. P. Cooper.

Liquor Stores.—George Strachan, George Risedorf, Ed. Fulkerson.

Livery.—Wm. H. Scott, F. C. Parshall, Al. Palmer, George T. Winslow.

Marble Yard.—McCabe Brothers.

Markets.—John Wood, Hinds Brothers, Wm. H. Michaels, Wheeler Drake, Nelson Smith, J. Lawyer Converse, James Reno.

Masons.—McCabe Brothers, Murty Keough, Smith & Lasher, James Goodenough.

Miliners.—Murphy Sisters, Mrs. H. K. Ball, Mrs. Emmer D. Goringe, Kate Dunn, Susan M. Hewes, Mrs. Loren Brown, Mrs. E. D. Shumway.

Painters and Decorators.—Frank Carroll, Wm. W. Brainard & Son, George Newell, Levi Gray, Shaw Brothers, Morrison & Ray, James Bullis & Son.

Photographers.—Washington G. Smith, Alfred A. Cooley.

Planing, Sawing, &c.—"Pioneer Planing Mills," John Pank, Manager; Cockett & Lewis.

Postoffice.—Delos L. Birge, Postmaster.

Printing.—S. M. Shaw & Co., Andrew Davidson, Harvey I. Russell.

Real Estate Agency.—Frank P. Kendall.

Restaurants and Saloons.—Harmon Groat, Abner J. Wykoff, Ed. J. Hill, Dock Hicks, Charles R. Hartson, James Conner, Ed. King.

Sewing Machines.—The Singer Co., John W. Hughes agent.

Stair Builders.—William S. May, Fayette Houck.

Surveyor.—Henry B. Walker.

Teamsters.—Joseph F. Mitchell, Earl Thorp, Webster Brothers, E. Harvey, Hudson Mulkins, Orville Adams.

Telegraph.—Western Union Co., Miss Nellie Davidson, operator.

Telephone.—Paul T. Brady manager, with four assistants.

Undertakers, &c.—James G. Parshall, Alger & Boden.

Upholsterer.—J. D. Clark.

Veterinary Surgeon.—Thomas Bulger.

OLDEST RESIDENTS OF COOPERSTOWN.

The following were residents of this village March 1, 1886 :

SEVENTY YEARS OLD, OR UPWARD.

Smith Adsit,	Dewitt C. Colman,	Mrs. John H. Prentiss,
Lydia M. Adams,	Mrs. D. C. Colman,	Mrs. Car'e M. Phinney,
Nathan Adams,	Mrs. Alonzo Campbell,	Mrs. Maria Pardee,
Peter Becker,	Augusta Crafts,	John Page,
Mrs. Peter Becker,	Mrs. Roxanna Converse,	Mrs. John Page,
John A. D. Becker,	Mrs. John Collar,	Mrs. Geo. H. Peek,
Mrs. J. A. D. Becker,	Mrs. Wm. Davison,	Robert Russell,
Gen. John S. Brown,	James Dennisson,	Mrs. R. Russell,
Mrs. J. S. Brown,	Norah Durken.	John F. Scott,
Luther I. Burditt,	George W. Ernst,	Mrs. J. F. Scott,
Mrs. L. I. Burditt,	Elijah Eaton,	Mrs. M. L. Richtmyer,
Mrs. David Ball,	Benajah Fitch,	Mrs. Juliet Ripley,
Mrs. Joseph Brown,	Michael Fogerty,	Mrs. Synnott,
Reuben Barber,	Mrs. Stephen Gregory,	Peter S. Sayles.

Mrs. R. Barber,	A. G. Griggs,	Mrs. P. S. Sayles,
Samuel W. Bingham,	George W. Holmes,	Mrs. Ransom Spafard,
Mrs. S. W. Bingham,	Mrs. G. W. Holmes,	Charles Stocking,
Mrs. Catherine Barrows,	Mrs. Elizabeth Hatch,	Mrs. Prudie Stocking,
William Brooks,	Mrs. Cath'ne Husbands,	Mrs. Levi C. Turner,
Mrs. Wm Brooks,	Mrs. Catherine Jarvis,	P. G. Tanner,
Mrs. Amy Putnam,	Benjamin F. Kipp,	Mrs. Urana Van Sice,
Dr. E. P. Byram,	Mrs. B. F. Kipp,*	Walter Van Horne,
Mrs. Mary A. Babcock,	Mrs. Bridget Kraham,	Mrs. W. Van Horne,
Peter Best,	Daniel N. Leonard,	Mrs. Levi Wood,
Amy Brown,	Mrs. D. N. Leonard,	Mrs. S. L. Williams,
Mrs. Anna Bacon,	Lucinda Lamb,	Mrs. J. R. Worthington,
Mrs. Eunice Brewer,	Linus S. Mason,	Mrs. Rens. Waterman,
Mrs. Hannah Brockway,	Thomas Murphy,	Isaac K. Williams,
Mrs. E. Bell,	John L. McNamee,	Mrs. I. K. Williams,
Lewis Bury,	Alexander McDonald,	Mrs. Susan Walts,
Charles Burhonse,	Betsey Malloy,	John Wood,
Miss Susan F. Cooper,	Jacob M. Moak,	Elizabeth Walrath,
Peter P. Cooper,	Mary Moakler,	Mrs. Joseph L. White,
Mary A. Cook,	Mrs. Mary Murphy,	Mrs. Catherine Wilson,
John J. Crafts,	Hiram Newell,	Chauncey Williams,
Sarah Crafts,	Mrs. Nancy M. Niles,	Leonard Weeks.*
Betsy Crafts,	John Olive,	

FIFTY YEARS RESIDENTS.

Lydia M. Adams,	Mrs. N. W. Cole,	Annie W. Phinney,
Peter Becker,	Mrs. E. S. Coffin,	Mrs. Marie Pardee,
Mrs. P. Becker,	James Cuppernoll,	Wm. C. Persons,
Henry J. Bowers,	Emily W. Doubleday,	Mrs. Geo. H. Peck,
Wm. C. Bailey,	Caroline Doubleday,	Mrs. Alfred Robinson,
Mrs. W. O. Bailey,	Geo. W. Ernst,	Jacob C. Snyder,
Mrs. Catherine Barrows,	Hiram Eddy,	Mrs. J. C. Snyder,
Samuel W. Bingham,	Marcus Field,	John J. Short,
Mrs. S. W. Bingham,	Mrs. M. Field,	Peter S. Sayles,
Theodore Ball,	Mrs. John Eggleston,	Mrs. P. S. Sayles,
B. Franklin Beadle,	Mrs. Russell Fitch,	Theo. S. Sayles,
Daniel Boden,	Mrs. Stephen Gregory,	Mrs. A. Shattuck,
Mrs. Peter Best,	Harmon Groat,	Mrs. Levi C. Turner,
Geo. S. Bradford,	John C. Graves,	Mrs. Urana Van Sice,
John S. Bailey,	Geo. W. Holmes,	Mrs. Annie Van Nort,
Wm. Becker,	Mrs. N. C. Herdman,	Adam Van Nort,
Eliza Bowen,	Susan M. Hewes,	Mrs. Adam Van Nort,
Thos. H. Bingham,	Mrs. Elizabeth Hatch,	Mrs. J. R. Worthington,

Amelia Boden,	A. Celestia Ingalls,	Mrs. Wash'n Wilson,
Miss Susan F. Cooper,	Benjamin F. Kipp,	Mrs. A. H. Watkins,
Mrs. Richard Cooper,	Mrs. B. F. Kipp,*	Mrs. P. W. Winne,
Mrs. M. Cooper-Clarke,	Dr. Horace Lathrop,	Mrs. Jerome B. Wood,
Mary A. Cook,	Lucinda Lamb,	Oliver J. Walrath,
Wm E. Cory,	Mrs. C. K. McHarg,	Chauncey Williams,
Mrs. Wm. E. Cory,	Mrs. J. H. Prentiss,	Geo. B. Wellman,
Phoebe F. Cory,	Elihu Phinney,	Mrs. S. L. Williams.

*Deceased since March 1.

The above is a most remarkable record for a village with a population of about 2,600. Of the above 110 who are 70 or upwards, 24 are 80 or upwards. Norah Derkin is about 95, and Mrs. Levi Wood is in her 95th year. The average age of the 110 is $77\frac{1}{2}$ years.

BRIEF PERSONAL MENTION.

A residence of over thirty-four years in Cooperstown—during which period nearly a generation of people have passed away—enables the writer to bear the most sincere and hearty testimony to the kindness, sympathy and good feeling which form a marked and distinguishing feature characteristic of this community. In sickness or misfortune, no worthy person is allowed to suffer, if the case be made known.

In 1861 there were 38 persons then living on this corporation who had been residents for fifty years, or over. The present survivors of that band are : Mrs. Stephen Gregory, Mrs. Levi C. Turner, Mrs. Samuel W. Bingham, Mrs. John H. Prentiss—four ladies.

Of the 23 old families mentioned by Mr. Cooper in Chap. VI. of the *Chronicles*, as being longest residents of Cooperstown, in 1838, 20 are still represented by their descendants living here.

Hon. SAMUEL NELSON, for many years a resident of Cooperstown, was first appointed a Judge in 1823, and he remained upon the Bench for the period of fifty years—the only case on record, in any age or country, so far as the writer has been able to ascertain. He was eight years Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in this State, and in 1845 went upon the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, where he held very high rank. Personally he was genial, cordial, sincere, highly popular with all classes and ranks of men. An extended notice of the retirement of the Judge appears in preceding pages of "*The Chronicles*."

One of the most interesting conversationalists of the old-school gentlemen whom we have known in Cooperstown, was Mr. ELIHU PHINNEY, Sr., and he was a man of active intellect and great energy

of character. He was perfectly familiar with all the facts of interest pertaining to the early history of this village.

Cooperstown lost one of its best and most useful citizens when Mr. THEODORE KEESE died in 1858. He was President and the controlling spirit at the time of the Bank of Cooperstown, and was active in church work; in all positions capable and reliable. He had been an active merchant for several years in New York, and had retired to Cooperstown, the early home of his wife, a niece of Mr. J. Fenimore Cooper, for a quiet life.

HORACE LATHROP, Esq., was a lawyer who had the confidence and respect of all who knew him. He was a quiet but genial man, with a keen sense of the humorous. He died in 1862.

Col. JOHN H. PRENTISS was a noted figure in Cooperstown society, a fine-looking gentleman of the old school. For a period of over forty years he was the editor and proprietor of the *Freeman's Journal*, and he served two terms in Congress. He retired from the paper in 1849, and from 1858 to 1861, when he died, was President of the Bank of Cooperstown, changed to the Second National of this village. His widow survives him; is now 86 years of age, and is the oldest native-born resident of Cooperstown.

Among the first of the old people we met and were kindly greeted by, on coming to Cooperstown, were Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE POMEROY. The "Doctor," as Mr. Pomeroy was always called, was for a great many years Town Clerk. Mrs. Pomeroy was sister to Mr. Cooper; she lived to see over 86 years, and till her final brief illness was a model of industry. Some of the wonderfully beautiful zephyr shawls which she knit for the church basket are still extant.

"Uncle ELLERY CORY," as he was affectionately called from the time we first made his acquaintance in 1851 till he died, was a most industrious, energetic, public-spirited citizen—a man of action rather than of words, a friend to rely upon in the hour of need, charitable in opinion and liberal in deed.

Mr. JOHN R. WORTHINGTON was a genial, pleasant man, with fine social qualities, with whom it was always a pleasure to spend a spare hour. His wealth was the means of starting in business and building up many others. Died in 1878.

Mr. HENRY F. PHINNEY did more perhaps than any other man to improve this village, for which he entertained the strongest attachment. In his efforts in this direction, he acquired a large amount of real estate, and in the end lost a handsome fortune. For various benevolent purposes he was a liberal giver. Died in 1875.

MR. WILLIAM H. AVERELL, whose long life was spent in Cooperstown, was a highly intellectual man, of marked personality—strongly wedded to his own views of public affairs and business matters; but ever ready to lend a helping hand to any one needing the ready means to prosecute a legitimate calling, often taking inadequate security for his loans. No man was a more steadfast friend to those who had gained his confidence and respect. He was at one time one of the Bank Commissioners of this State, and was for a long time influential in the counsels of the old Whig party, of which he was a prominent member.

MR. JOSHUA H. STORY was one of the most active, energetic, wide-awake and enterprising merchants and real estate owners in Cooperstown. He was a good landlord, for he kept his property in excellent condition. He died in 1871.

MR. JEDEDIAH P. SILL was very active in the building of the Cooperstown railroad, the widening of Main street after the fire, and in other village improvements. Died in 1875, and was at that time President of the Second National Bank.

MR. FREDERICK A. LEE was another very active and useful citizen. It was through his instrumentality that the Bank of Cooperstown was established, and he was its first Cashier and afterwards President. He actively identified himself with all the improvements and interests of the village, and it was through his labors that Lakewood Cemetery was established in 1856. He was the first President of its Board of Trustees.

MR. HENRY SCOTT, who was for four decades connected with the Otsego County and the First National Banks, as Cashier or President, was a good business man, a prudent and pains-taking official, and a pleasant gentleman in social circles.

MR. GEORGE L. BOWNE, who came here from Florida after the civil war broke out, did a great deal for the improvement of Cooperstown after the great fire. Died in 1866.

The coming to Cooperstown of Mr. EDWARD CLARK in 1856, and the purchase by him of "Apple Hill," now "Fernleigh," was of great benefit to the village. He expended large sums of money in the erection of his elegant mansion and buildings belonging thereto, the improvement of neighboring property, the construction of Hotel Fenimore, the Pioneer Mills, a number of cottages, &c.—thus giving steady employment to a large number of mechanics and laborers. He became an extensive owner of farm lands in the vicinity of the village—bought by him mainly on the solicitation of the owners

thereof. His two splendid lake-hill farms were willed to his grandsons.

THO'S CLARKE followed the calling of his Master, that of carpenter and few men of Cooperstown that we have known more closely followed His example in his daily life. He was a man of much intelligence, and of uniform cheerfulness and courtesy. In all business matters he was most reliable and faithful; in his church he was a modest but a strong pillar.

WILLIAM WILSON, the tailor, or as everybody called him, "Billy Wilson," was one of the early settlers, and an interesting character, full of anecdotes and reminiscences of by-gone days. He died in 1866, aged 77 years, esteemed by all who knew him.

One of the kindest-hearted men and most faithful physicians we ever knew in Cooperstown, was Dr. THOMAS SMITH, who died in 1875, a bachelor of 70 years.

A most courteous old-school gentleman was THOMAS MCINTOSH, who had lost his sight when we first received a call from him in 1851. He died nine years later, aged 70.

In January, 1884, died SAMUEL A. BOWEN, and in December of that year HEZEKIAH STURGES, both of whom had held the office of County Judge. The former was only 49 years old; the latter 65. In the death of these two gentlemen—the former still in the prime of life—Cooperstown and the Bar of Otsego met with a loss which was deeply felt. Judge Bowen had held the office of District Attorney and County Judge each two terms, and discharged their duties with marked ability. Judge Sturges had served one term as County Judge, and for upwards of three years had been one of the Board of Canal Appraisers, a highly important State office.

One of the first and most pleasant calls we had, a few days after coming to Cooperstown to reside, was from Mr. ANDREW M. BARBER, then editor of the Republican. He was a pleasant, companionable, jovial man, and a general favorite in this community. As a writer he was bright, pugnacious and witty. Our personal relations continued on the most friendly and pleasant terms till his death in 1855.

Mrs. SCHUYLER CRIPPEN, who was a daughter of Isaac Cooper, and Mrs. E. B. MOREHOUSE, who was a daughter of Dr. Fuller, had no superiors in Cooperstown society during the long period that they adorned it, and that is saying a great deal. They were first in all that goes to make up what is most attractive in female character. Mrs. Crippen died in 1862; Mrs. Morehouse in 1870. Miss MARTHA S. BOWERS, who retained the "Lakelands" mansion after the death of

her venerable mother, and maintained its ancient hospitality, was closely identified with Cooperstown society and interests until her death in 1881. If ever a woman deserved the title of "saint," it belonged to Miss Bowers by virtue of her liberality and tender regard for the sick, the poor, the unfortunate.

MR. ALFRED CLARKE, who lived on his beautiful farm about eight miles from Cooperstown, on the west bank of the Lake, until his death in 1869, was much identified socially with the people of this village, and was a well-read and cultivated gentleman, whose presence always gave pleasure and enjoyment to his friends here. He took a lively interest in the affairs of the County Agricultural Society, of which he was at one time President. His widow has for several years been a resident of Cooperstown.

Of Dr. ARIEL SPAFARD, who came here in 1822, studied with Dr. Fuller, and practiced until his death in 1845, a personal friend who knew him well says: "I should like to say, in your 'personals,' that Cooperstown never had a more useful citizen or better physician than Dr. Spafard. He was at one time one of the State medical censors; for many years he served the town with great efficiency as school commissioner; at one time was a teacher, and he did much to advance the cause of common school education in this town. It was his daughter who taught school here for several years."

Mr. Cooper says the village of Cooperstown furnished six of the eleven gentlemen first elected to Congress from this county, which comprised a congressional district by itself, and speaks of JOHN M. BOWERS, Esq., as one of them. The certificate of election was given Mr. Bowers because of the fact that the board of canvassers of one of the towns, in 1813, returned the vote for Hon. ISAAC WILLIAMS without the "Jr." attached to his name, and the result was so close that without such vote, it showed the election of Mr. Bowers, who sat through a short special session; but at the first regular session, when the matter was brought before it, Congress gave the seat to Mr. Williams, who was three times chosen to this office. He was a resident of this town. Since the time when Mr. Cooper wrote, this village has been honored with but one Representative in Congress, Hon. Samuel S. Bowne, who was elected in 1840.

Mrs. LEVI WOOD is now the oldest person residing on this corporation, having attained 94 years on the 1st September, 1885. Her maiden name was Olive Mason, and she is a native of Cheshire, Massachusetts. She came to the town of Middlefield in 1813, one year after her marriage in her native place, the ceremony being performed by Rev. John Leland, the noted Baptist divine and politician. She

came to Cooperstown with her husband in 1835, and she has lived here ever since the death of her husband in 1870, with her daughter, Mrs Wm. E. Cory. She has had five children, two of whom are now living, fourteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. Mrs. Wood is the oldest member of the Universalist church in Cooperstown. She is a most charming old lady, retaining her mental faculties and general health to a remarkable degree for one who has lived nearly a century. Her recollection of important events which occurred in this country and in Europe sixty to eighty years ago, is very good, and it is a great pleasure to hear her talk of them. And she has not lost her interest in the passing events of the day.

The first line in this book was put in type by ISAAC K. WILLIAMS, the senior printer in Otsego county, and for 32 of his 74 years connected with the Journal office. He was at one time one of the proprietors of the Otsego Republican.

A BRIEF MENTION OF FACTS.

A Postoffice was first opened in Cooperstown, June 1, 1794, and Joseph Griffin was the Postmaster. For several years the mail arrived weekly, then twice a week, then thrice, then daily. A permanent daily mail was not established until 1821.

As early as 1806 between three and four thousand dollars had been expended to furnish Cooperstown with drinking water.

The house in which Mr. H. J. Bowers now resides was the first stone dwelling put up in Cooperstown. It was built in 1804 by Judge Cooper, for his daughter, Mrs. Pomeroy.

The first brick house erected in Cooperstown, was by John Miller, in 1802. Is now owned and occupied by Dr. Campbell.

The first Lake party, a source of amusement which has become so popular on the waters of Otsego, took place in the month of August, 1799. It was given by Judge Cooper, for the entertainment of a number of friends from Philadelphia. The party, numbering about twenty-five, embarked in Indian canoes and flat-bottomed skiffs, the place of rendezvous being the Two Mile Point, on the eastern shore of the Lake. A "general Lake party," once the great social feature of Cooperstown, is a thing of the past. One has scarcely been attempted for several years past. But a great many neighborhood, Sunday School and family parties are given every summer at Three Mile and other "Points" on the Lake.

Since the preceeding section of this book was printed, the Masonic Order of Cooperstown, Lodge 138, has purchased the "Phinney block" on Pioneer street, in which their lodge room is located.

The Otsego County Medical Society was organized at the Court House in Cooperstown, July 1, 1806, and Dr. Joseph White of Cherry Valley was its first President, and Dr. Thomas Fuller of Cooperstown, Vice President.

The Otsego County Bible Society was organized March 7, 1813, and Rev. Daniel Nash was its first President.

Governor Lewis visited Cooperstown September 17, 1806, to attend a military review, which was quite a grand affair.

The first Academy erected in Cooperstown, and which was destroyed by fire, stood on the corner now occupied by the Universalist church.

In 1813 John F. Ernst of this village received license to sell by retail, merchandise other than wines and spirits, by paying, as was the custom, ten dollars for his license, which was countersigned by Jedediah Peck. This document was recently shown us by Mr. George W. Ernst, the surviving son.

The road on the east side of the Lake to East Springfield, was opened about 1825, as the Otsego Lake Turnpike, is continued as such, and the stock is principally owned by George Clarke.

The "Cooperstown and Fort Plain Plank Road Co." was organized and the road built about the year 1850. The road was kept up for about twenty years, first as a plank and then as a partially McAdamized road. There were at one time five or six toll gates on it.

Mr. T. C. Smith, president of the County Agricultural Society, says he can remember attending a fair once held by the Society, when he was a boy, on the grounds now owned by Mr. John F. Scott, a little southwest of "Woodside" mansion.

When the Journal office changed hands in 1851, all the four hand printing presses then in this village could not make to exceed eighteen impressions a minute. The presses now owned in the village, all running at one time, would make not less than 200 impressions a minute.

In the summer of 1831, a boat propelled by horse-power was running on the Lake, carrying parties to different points, furnishing meals, and music for dancing on deck. In 1858, a small steamer was on the Lake, large enough to carry half a dozen, but too small for convenience and pleasure. Neither of these boats was ever much used by the citizens of Cooperstown.

It was quite an event in Cooperstown when the first elephant was exhibited here in 1813.

Since the death of Mr. J. H. Story in 1871, and that of Mr. H. F. Phinney in 1875, and the sale to various parties of the many dwellings,

stores and lots owned by them in their lifetime, real estate on this corporation has been mainly owned by the respective occupants. Mr. Luther I. Burditt and his son W. Dean Burditt, have within four years erected a number of small cottages to rent, on land owned by them. Mr. George Clarke has added two or three pieces of real estate to his former possessions.

The Cooperstown Gas Light Company was organized in 1861, the stock being owned by a few persons. It was subsequently sold to Dorr Russell, and by him to O. R. Butler.

At one time several branches of manufacture were carried on in Cooperstown; at present very few persons are employed in the production of any manufactured articles. The McCabe Brothers, builders and stone-cutters, employ from 45 to 60 men in their business, which is the heaviest of any now pursued here. All of the hats, boots and shoes, and most of the clothing, are made elsewhere in large factories.

The student of natural history finds Cooperstown and vicinity a favored locality for the pursuit of his studies and investigations. The number and variety of trees, shrubs, mosses, ferns, flowers, grasses, etc., growing here is very large, and not a few of them rare; only in one place in this county, so far as we are advised, and that just off the village corporation, has the noted "walking fern," genus *Lycopodium*, been found. This locality is also visited by a great variety of birds, butterflies, moths of the larger species, etc.

In the list of those engaged in business here, should have appeared the names of C. S. Derrick, Geo. Holmes, W. N. Potter, Mrs. B. F. Austin, Mrs. Cora A. Barnum, Mrs. L. A. Kaple, Miss Julia E. Butler, Miss Eva Counrod, Miss Mary Holmes and Miss Mary A. Williams, as instructors in music.

For a long time Cooperstown boasted a sulphur spring, located near the foot of Fair street, but it was lost in certain improvements made there about ten years ago. The water was not strongly impregnated with sulphur. It is the belief of those whose opinion in such matters is entitled to respect, that a sulphur spring of value may be developed here by deep boring. There are two or more such springs on the east side of the Lake, a few miles north of the village.

The Three Mile Point House was bought by Mr. A. W. Thayer about twenty-two years ago; the House at Five Mile Point by Mr. J. D. Tunnickliff about thirty-five years ago. Both have remained in the same hands ever since.

In one of Mr. Cooper's novels occurs the following passage: "He

dismounted in front of the house and tied his horse to a large locust." A French author, in translating this passage, renders it thus: "He descended from his horse in front of his chateau, and tied him to a large grasshopper."

St. Paul, Minn., is often spoken of as a favorable location for persons threatened with pulmonary diseases. Actual tests and comparisons have shown that Cooperstown affords a more uniform temperature and a dryer atmosphere than St. Paul. It is very seldom that a case of consumption is reported in this village.

PERSONAL MATTERS.

THE EARLY SOCIETY OF COOPERSTOWN,

It is an admitted fact on the part of all who mingled in it, was very attractive. Like the scenes about the Lake, it left its impress on cultivated minds. As a prelude to an address which he delivered here in July, 1882, the late Hon. Isaac N. Arnold remarked :

It is now more than forty years since in early manhood I left this beautiful village to seek my fortunes at Chicago. If I addressed a Cooperstown audience in those early days, I expected to see among my hearers that great and upright Judge Samuel Nelson, that most eloquent and witty advocate E. B. Morehouse, that profound real estate lawyer Robert Campbell, and that accomplished and courtly gentleman John M. Bowers. The intellectual and courteous William H. Averell, the friend of every worthy and ambitious young man, would have given me a kindly greeting. The cordial and genial Levi C. Turner would have occupied a front seat. Col. John H. Prentiss would have been sure to have given me a flattering notice in the *Freeman's Journal* ; H. & E. Phinney would have printed my address in pamphlet ; Fenimore Cooper and his nephew Richard might have honored me with their presence ; Richard Worthington and Henry Ernst would have furnished music, if music was needed ; Elder Bostwick of Hartwick, or the Rev. Mr. Tiffany would have opened the meeting with prayer, and in the audience I should have seen the Starkweathers, Fullers, Pomeroy's, Doubledays, Spafards, Graveses, Scotts, Perkins, McNamees, and many others, some of whose sons and daughters and grand-children I see here to-night. With the smiling face of the politest negro in the world, Joe Tom would have been seen bringing me a glass of water, seating strangers, and master of the ceremonies generally. Since those early days, which I so happily passed here, I have been something of a traveler. I have heard the songs of Tom Moore sung on the shores of the Lake Killarney ; I have visited the English Lakes, the haunts of Wordsworth,

De Quincey and Coleridge; and I have listened to the poetry of Scott, and the songs of Burns on Lochs Lomond, Katrine, and amid the Trossachs; I have seen the grand mountains of Switzerland, shadowing their snowy peaks in the blue waters of Lakes Zurich and Geneva; I have crossed the Simplon into Italy, and lingered on the shores of Como and Maggiore; and while of course I have seen Lake scenery far more bold and sublime, yet for quiet, pastoral, picturesque beauty, I have not seen any where, anything to surpass the Otsego.

I should love to linger still longer among the local and poetic associations of these head-waters of the Susquehanna. As I climb your hills and tread your woodland paths, as I drive up and down these picturesque valleys, it is to me all haunted ground. The scenes and characters of other days come thronging back to me. I seem in fancy to meet the imposing form of James Fenimore Cooper, as when a boy I used to meet him, in his daily walk from "the Hall" to the "Chalet." I can not pass "Lakelands" without hearing the kindly greeting of Mr. Bowers, or meeting the vision of his most lovely daughters.

As I climb the old path that leads to Mount Vision and Prospect Rock, passing "Woodside" I hear again the wit and eloquence of Judge Morehouse; the rocks again echo with "Auld Lang Syne" and "Scots wha ha'." I hear once more the sweet and plaintive voice of Mrs. Morehouse reciting the lines of Cowper and Halleck, Grey and Milton. If I pass the site of the old Court House, where I made my first speech at the Bar, I hear again the eloquent words of Joshua A. Spencer, of Ambrose L. Jordan, of the Starkweathers, of S. S. Bowne and Chatfield, and the court room rings with the laugh which the humor of Alvan Stewart never failed to call forth. But I am lingering too long over these sad but pleasant memories and I will proceed to my theme.

THE PICTURE OF A WOMAN.

Kate Dorrance, second daughter of Mr. John R. Worthington, was from her childhood a universal favorite in Cooperstown society. Perhaps, next to her own family circle, in none other was she more truly loved and admired, from early girlhood until her death in 1865, about a year after her marriage to Dr. Gregory, than by the writer and his wife. In her early departure we were bereaved, as we might have been by the death of a beloved younger sister. Those who intimately knew her, recognized the following "Picture of a Woman," which appeared in the local column of the Freeman's Journal in November, 1872:

* * * In that Picture of a Woman in life's early morn, just presented us by her brother, perhaps you see nothing very peculiar or striking. It is not eminently beautiful, and yet the original was in feature and form attractive and "fair to look upon" in life—almost angelic in death; it bears not the stamp of intellect beyond that of the educated and clever women about you—still her mind was unusually active and bright, her wit keen, her appreciation of the beautiful strong, her sense of the ludicrous most acute. "There is a look of goodness and gentleness about it," you say; yes, the workings of a pure mind and a loving heart were reflected like a mirror in that young face, so mobile in its expression, so quick to light up with unusual glow; and her joyous laugh was like the music of a rippling and sparkling brook. We may not interest you in this picture, if you knew not the original; yet our pen-sketch may possibly call to mind some other picture, form, or ideal character, on which you love to dwell in hours of mental revery. It is to us "a thing of beauty," for it speaks of the beautiful and charming in character—of one who possessed so many of the elements of "the perfect woman." We never knew one whose society was more acceptable to older persons—she was so joyous, so uniformly happy, so truly sympathetic, so entirely destitute of selfishness, even in little things. That marked unselfishness was a peculiarly distinguishing natural trait from childhood—it won the love and admiration of her own sex. As a child, maiden, woman, she was always interesting; her presence like a sunbeam.

Do not the pictures of such characters, hung about your home, or dwelling in the chambers of the heart, possess for you a living charm and a holy influence?—do they not speak to you at times, and recall fond old memories? awaken pleasant recollections of the past? sometimes create a longing for a glimpse through that "open door" of the future, and even set the "gate ajar?" "And you say the original of this picture has passed through?" Among the many little folk who flock to our pleasant village in summer-time, is one of seven years, whose ringing laugh and nervous manner recall one who was but nine years old when we first knew her, and whose eyes closed forever as they first gazed on this child, who bears her name—Æ 23. A life for a life. A double birth—one born to heaven, one to earth. The ashes of the mother repose on the banks of our Lake, that so often reflected her bright image, and echoed the notes of her merry laugh and her joyous songs.

HOW A FARM WAS OBTAINED.

In his "Reminiscences," Hon. Levi Beardsley relates the following

anecdote of Judge Cooper, the founder of the village of Coopers-town :

As Judge Cooper has been introduced, I may as well relate an incident witnessed by my father, not far from this time, and I am not sure but the very time he went to Cooperstown to receive his commission. I have thought it strange that James F. Cooper, the novelist, has not introduced it in some of his works, and once spoke to him about it and related the circumstances, as my father described them. A wrestling match was got up, in front of Griffin's, where a ring was formed, and the parties matched for the contest. Judge Cooper said he was a wrestler himself ; and believed he could throw any man in the county ; and further, that he wanted to find a man on his patent, who could throw him ; remarking, that he would give any one in the company, one hundred acres of land, who would throw him at arms length. Timothy Morse, who I have elsewhere mentioned as a strong man, stepped up and laying his hands on the judge's shoulder, said, "Cooper, I believe I can lay you on your back." Cooper replied, "If you can I will give you one hundred acres." A ring was formed, and at it they went, and Morse soon brought him to the position indicated. The judge got up and ordered Richard Smith, his clerk, to make out the necessary papers for one hundred acres. This Richard Smith was the first sheriff of the county.

When I mentioned this to James F. Cooper, he remarked that "it used to be fashionable to wrestle where his father was brought up, and from whence he removed to Otsego county ; and that William Penn was a celebrated wrestler, and introduced and encouraged this with other athletic sports among his colonists."

THE WALKS, SAILS AND DRIVES ABOUT COOPERSTOWN.

Near points of interest, and minutes walk to them from the Postoffice in Cooperstown :

Site of Otsego Hall, Cooper's home, 3 minutes.

Cooper's Grave, Episcopal Church yard, 5 minutes.

Fair View Road, in rear Cooper House, 15 minutes.

Lakewood Cemetery, east side of the Lake, 15 minutes.

Hannah's Hill, west side of the Lake, 25 minutes.

Prospect Rock, east side, 30 minutes.

Mount Vision, east side, 35 minutes.

Leatherstocking's Cave, east side, 50 minutes.

Points to be reached by boats, and distances from the dock :

One-Half Mile Bay, west side, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Down the shady Susquehanna to River Dam, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

The Echo and Natty Bumppo's Cave, east side of the lake, 1 mile.

Lakewood Cemetery Landing, east side, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Fairy Spring, east side, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

The Grove, west side, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Point Judith, east side, 2 miles.

Point Florence, east side, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Water Lily Bay, west side, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Hurry Harry, east side, 3 miles.

Wild Rose Point, or Three Mile Point, west side, 3 miles.

Deer Brook (the "Dugway") east side, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Five Mile Point, west side, 5 miles.

Canon, at Five Mile Point, west side, 5 miles.

Hutter's Point, west side, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Gravelly Point, east side, 6 miles.

Hickory Grove, west side, 6 miles.

Pegg's Point, east side, 7 miles.

Hyde Hall, Mt. Wellington, 8 miles.

The Shoal, Site of Muskrat Castle, west side, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Ocean Grove, Steamer Gem's landing, west side, 8 miles.

Island Cottage, Natty Bumppo's landing, west side, 8 miles.

Head of the Lake, 9 miles.

Among the most pleasant carriage drives about this village, may be mentioned the following :

Up the west side of the Lake, to the first road on the left ; take that, and each succeeding left hand road, till you re-enter the village. Distance about eight miles.

Up the west side of the Lake, till you reach the second road ; on through Pierstown, till you reach the first road running toward the Lake ; that terminates at Five Mile Point ; south along the Lake, till you re-enter the village. Distance about eleven miles.

Up the east side of the Lake, about three miles, take the road leading across the mountain, and which affords some of the finest views near the Lake ; turn to the right on reaching the valley beyond, and return to Cooperstown by the "Vision" road. Distance about nine miles.

Down the river road, west side, about three miles ; cross the valley by the first road, Phoenix Mills bridge ; return to the village by the road on the east side of the river. Or, continue on down the river about six miles from Cooperstown, to the Clinton factory, and cross there.

Down the river road to the first road on the right ; take that, through Toddsville, and return to the village by taking either a road

over the hills, two turns to the right; or, turn to the left and come back by way of the river road. The latter about seven miles; the former about eight miles.

Down the river road to the road next below Hartwick Seminary; turn to the right, and at the top of the hill you reach two beautiful little lakes. The view from this point, of the Lake and village of Cooperstown, is a very fine one.

Down the river road about three miles, turn to the right, and on to Hartwick village, distant about nine miles from Cooperstown. A level road, most of the distance, and some very pretty scenery.

Cross either bridge at the village, into Middlefield; turn south, and then drive around the "beaver meadow," going one side of the hill and returning the other. Distance about seven miles. If you prefer a hill road, extensive views, and a longer drive, you can get them by going in any direction driving east after crossing the river.

The drive to Wykoff's tower, on "Mount Otsego," about eight miles north of Cooperstown, affords one of the best and most extensive views in the State.

"Hooker Mountain," ten miles south, rivals "Rum Hill," in the variety and extent of prospect; many of the prominent peaks of the Catskills are distinctly visible on a clear day. In going take the road through Westville, and return by the "gulf," on the direct road to Schenevus.

"Moose Hill," near the line of Middlefield and Westford, about eight miles southeast of Cooperstown, affords an extensive view of a beautiful section of country.

In driving to Richfield Springs, it is well to go by way of the Lake to Five Mile Point. and over the hills to that noted summer resort; or, through Pierstown and over "Rum Hill"; return by way of Schuyler's Lake. Or, take the lake boat and tally-ho coach. There are several other routes to Richfield.

In driving to Cherry Valley, those who do not know the different routes to that historic village, will do well to follow the telegraph wires leading there. Or, drive to the head of the lake, turn to the right, and on about four miles to the village. Distance there, by this route, about fifteen miles.

A drive around the Lake, distance about twenty miles, direct route, or twenty-five miles through the villages of Springfield, is one of the most pleasant.

The drive to Sharon Springs, via Cherry Valley, is about twenty-three miles.

OBITUARY.

The death roll of the past thirty five years records the names of the following prominent citizens of Cooperstown, business men, and aged well-known residents, among many others. It is often the case that reference to the exact date of the death of some such person is sought, therefore we insert this list in the History :

1851—⁴Sept 14, James Fenimore Cooper, aged 62 years.

Oct. 29, Mrs. Mary Fuller, relict of Dr. Thomas Fuller, in her 80th year.

1852—⁴Jan. 20, Mrs. Susan Augusta, relict of J. Fenimore Cooper, in her 60th year.

March 15, Mrs. Martha Wilson, in her 94th year.

Dec. 8, Moses Lippitt, in his 50th year.

1853—Jan. 4, Wm. Burke, aged 84 years.

1854—June 16, Col. Peter Magher, aged 80 years.

July 10, Lawrence McNamee, aged 82 years.

Oct. 22, Mrs. C. Dorrance, relict of Dr. Trumbull Dorrance, aged 79 years.

Oct. 17, Chandler Root, in his 48th year.

Dec. 21, David Willard, aged 42 years.

1855—April 4, Abner Graves, aged 89 years.

May 4, James Stowell, aged 68 years.

Aug. 8, Dr. James M. Peak, aged 47 years.

Aug. 24, Andrew M. Barber, aged 41 years.

1856—May 9, Elijah Hyde Metcalf, aged 40 years.

Aug. 8, Lewis R. Palmer, aged 41 years.

Aug. 16, Melancton B. Jarvis, aged 81 years.

Dec. 3, Mrs. Rachel Campbell, in her 76th year.

1857—Jan. 16, Dr. J. L. Fox, in his 47th year,

1858—Feb. 13, Cutler Field, aged 49 years.

⁴Sept. 27, Theodore Keese, in his 58th year.

1859—March 29, Mrs. Fanny Waterman, wife of Simeon Waterman, aged 86 years.

Nov. 25, Miss Sabrina Wood, in her 66th year.

1860—Jan. 28, Alfred Carr, aged 56 years.

Nov. 1, Isaac Tucker, in his 55th year.

1861—Feb. 18, John Brewer, in his 64th year.

Feb. 21, Silas Root, in his 84th year.

June 25, Thomas McIntosh, aged 70 years.

June 26, Col. John H. Prentiss, in his 78th year.

⁴Dec. 24, George Pomeroy, in his 83d year.

- 1862—Jan. 25, Luther Blodgett, in his 79th year.
April 7, Miss Elizabeth Miller, in her 70th year.
May 18, Ann Pomeroy, wife of Judge Crippen, in her 51st year.
July 22, Horace Lathrop, in his 76th year.
Sept. 24, Mrs. Lucy Sumner Crafts, aged 96 years.
Nov. 25, Tommy Bronk, (colored,) aged about 95 years.
Dec. 14, Peter Brockham, aged 45 years.
Dec. 16, Richard Cooper, aged 54 years.
- 1863—Jan. 13, Jerome B. Wood, aged 42 years.
Jan. 26, Elihu Phinney, in his 78th year.
March 23, Alvan Potter, aged 71 years.
Sept. 28, Holder Cory, in his 63d year.
Oct. 30, Edward B. Crandall, in his 74th year.
- 1864—April 2, Harvey Marvin, aged 43 years.
April 29, James Cockett, aged 43 years.
Sept 19, Simeon Waterman, aged 89 years.
Sept. 19, Samuel M. Ingalls, in his 85th year.
- 1865—June 12, Loomis Brown, in his 50th year.
Nov 24, Mrs. Georgiann Keese, in her 59th year.
- 1866—Jan. 3. Wm. G. S. Hall, in his 43d year.
March 6, Seth Doubleday, in his 72d year.
March 31, David Ball, aged 61 years.
May 11, Mrs. Marcia McNamee, aged 81 years.
May 26, George L. Bowne, in his 49th year.
Sept. 22, William Wilson, aged 77 years.
Nov. 7, Mrs. Annis Burke, aged 90 years.
Dec. 7, Lyman J. Walworth, in his 65th year.
- 1867—March 13, Levi C. Turner, aged 61 years.
March 27, Rev. George Kerr, aged 55 years.
April 21, Stephen Gregory, aged 77 years.
June 3, Chauncey N. Chapman, aged 69 years.
Sept. 16, Mrs. Zilpha Babcock, aged 90 years.
Nov. 6. Wm. K. Bingham, aged 49 years.
Nov. 15, Ariel Thayer, aged 82 years.
- 1868—Feb. 20, Hiram S. Babcock, aged 57 years.
March 8, Mrs Mary Schrom, in her 80th year.
Sept. 3, Wm. Nichols, in his 82d year.
Sept. 7, Alfred Robinson, in his 53d year.
- 1869—Jan. 20, Henry P. Metcalf, aged 62 years.
Feb. 3, Mary Ann Boden, aged 72 years.
March 10, Abel S. Babcock, aged 62 years.
May 2, Marius B. Angell, aged 38 years.

- June 26, David H. Beggs, aged 58 years.
Sept. 23, Hiram Kinne, aged 71 years.
Sept. 25, James Cox, aged 92 years.
- 1870—Feb. 5, Abijah Barnum, aged 76 years.
March 24, Levi Wood, aged 81 years.
✓ April 7, Mrs. Ann Pomeroy, in her 87th year.
June 16, Mrs. Eliza C. Morehouse, in her 72d year.
June 24, Mrs. Mary Ann Doubleday, aged 63 years.
Dec. 2, Charles Thurston, in his 91st year.
Dec. 14, Rev. Charles S. Stewart, aged 75 years.
- 1871—Jan. 11, Mrs. Margaret Thurston, aged 84 years.
March 23, Harvey Hollister, aged 66 years.
April 4, Joshua H. Story, in his 53d year.
Oct. 7, Thomas Clarke, in his 63d year.
✓ Nov. 23, Wm. A. Comstock, aged 62 years.
Dec. 5, Mrs. Margaret McIntosh, aged 75 years.
- 1872—Feb. 6, Mrs. Margaretta M. S. Bowers, in her 94th year.
Feb. 6, Mrs. Deborah Carr, in her 61st year.
March 1, Schuyler Crippen, aged 77 years.
Aug. 1, Daniel Lamb, aged 87 years.
Sept. 5, Patrick Hewes, aged 67 years.
- 1873—Jan. 11, Rev. John Wallace, aged 70 years.
April 2, Mrs. Lucy C. Saxton, aged 82 years.
Aug. 17, William H. Averell, aged 79 years.
✓ Oct. 16, Mrs. Mary Ann Cooper, in her 90th year.
Oct. 21, Edward Edwards, aged 56 years.
Dec. 13, Samuel Nelson, aged 81 years.
Dec. 19, Henry Scott, aged 82 years.
- 1874—Jan. 6, Emma Fuller, in her 80th year.
Jan. 22, Ellery Cory, in his 81st year.
Feb. 9, Wm. H. Ruggles, in his 54th year.
March 26, Seth T. Winslow, aged 63 years.
April 22, Sally Doubleday, in her 82d year.
June 27, Caroline Jordan Clark, in her 59th year.
- 1875—Jan. 5, Daniel Peck, in his 74th year.
Feb. 18, Mrs. Esther S. Lewis, in her 82d year.
Feb. 23, Mrs. Catherine H. Nichols, aged 86 years.
March 18, Henry Gould, aged 69 years.
April 9, Mrs. Catherine A. Nelson, aged 70 years.
April 17, Alfred Brockway, aged 92 years.
May 16, Simon Van Sice, in his 82d year.
Aug. 12, Robert Davis, in his 69th year.
Sept. 2, Dr. Thomas Smith, aged 70 years.

- Sept. 27, Jedediah P. Sill, in his 68th year.
Oct. 28, Henry F. Phinney, in his 59th year.
Dec. 24, Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers, aged 81 years.
- 1876 Jan. 22, Mrs. Mary Morris Foote, in her 70th year.
Feb. 9, Mrs. Electa Pierce, in her 86th year.
April 12, Kent Jarvis, in his 30th year.
Aug. 26, Mrs. Mariette Doubleday, in her 77th year.
Oct. 6, Mrs. Nancy Lathrop, aged 69 years.
- 1877—March 8, Edwin S. Coffin, aged 66 years.
April 21, Ransom Spafard in his 76th year.
June 12, George Jarvis, aged 67 years.
Sept. 14, Mrs. Marilla Peck, aged 82 years.
Nov. 29, George Story, aged 74 years.
- 1878—Jan. 15, John R. Worthington, aged 73 years.
Feb. 25, Horace C. Fish, aged 68 years.
March 2, Mrs. Betsey Wood, in her 83d year.
Oct. 7, Mrs. Mary Stowell, aged 86 years.
Oct. 8, Fayette Hinds, aged 54 years.
Oct. 13, George A. Starkweather, in his 85th year.
- 1879—March 3, Adin Adams, in his 84th year.
March 18, Major Wm. Lewis, aged 88 years.
Nov. 12, Mrs. Wm. Wilson, in her 86th year.
- 1880—Sept. 10, Hannah Brockway, aged 90 years.
Oct. 17, Fanny Graves, in her 85th year.
Dec. 11, Rensselaer Waterman, aged 75 years.
- 1881—March 24, Miss Martha S. Bowers, aged 75 years.
Sept. 3, Caleb J. Paul, aged 71 years.
- 1882—Feb. 7, Mrs. W. C. Keyes, in her 73d year.
March 15, Mrs. G. W. Ernst, in her, 68th year.
March 17, Augustus Short, aged 73 years.
May 27, Zadock Fitch, in his 86th year.
June 3, Calvin Graves, aged 87 years.
June 17, Philip H. Potter, aged 66 years.
Oct. 14, Edward Clark, in his 71st year.
- 1883—April 16, Mrs. Richard Cooley, in her 78th year.
June 17, Urelus Birge, aged 73 years.
Sept. 18, Sam'l McK. Thompson, aged 66 years.
Dec. 25, Winchester Childs, aged 83 years.
- 1884—Jan 2, Albert Gorringer, in his 40th year.
Jan. 4, Seth Hurd, aged 83 years.
Jan. 17, Webster C. Keyes, aged 77 years.
Jan. 28, Samuel A. Bowen, aged 49 years.
April 29, Frederick A. Lee, in his 74th year.

March 23, Samuel Crafts, aged 83 years.

June 22, Mrs. Philena Butts, aged 98 years.

Sept 7, Elizabeth McEwan, aged 85 years.

Nov. 17, Rev. Gaius S. Blodgett, in his 72d year.

Dec 4, Hezekiah Sturges, aged 65 years.

1885—Feb. 27, Mrs. Romeo Bowen, aged 87 years.

✓ March 22, Miss Ann Charlotte Fenimore-Cooper, in her 68th year.

May 21, Mrs. Nancy Grace, aged 98 years and 7 months.

Sept. 26, Mrs. Henry Scott, aged 76 years.

It will be seen that 58 of the above-mentioned residents reached 80 years or upwards, 12 of whom lived 85 to 89 years, five were 90, two were 92, two were 94, one was 95, one 96, one 98, one 98 years and 7 months, when they died. The average age of the 13 oldest was a little over 93 years.

METEOROLOGY.

Highest, Lowest and Mean Temperature at Cooperstown, from 1850 to 1885, inclusive; also Annual Rain-fall from 1854 to 1885:

1850.—Highest, June 19th, 88°. Lowest, December 31st, -7°. Mean, 45°.

1851.—Highest, June 29th, 88°. Lowest, December 27th, -20°. Mean, 44°.

1852.—Highest, July 9th, 92°. Lowest, February 21st, -7°. Mean, 43 $\frac{3}{4}$ °

1853.—Highest, August 14th, 90°. Lowest, January 16th, 0°. Mean, 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ °

1854.—Highest, September 6th, 93°. Lowest, January 29th -8°. Mean, 45°. Rain-fall, 37 90-100 inches.

1855.—Highest, July 19th, 89°. Lowest, February 7th, -30°. Mean, 43 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rain-fall, 48 12-100 inches.

1856.—Highest, June 29th, 94°. Lowest, March 10th, -20°. Mean, 41°. Rain-fall, 34 57-100 inches.

1857.—Highest, July 19th, 90°. Lowest, January 24th, -30°. Mean, 42 $\frac{3}{4}$ °. Rain-fall, 52 inches.

1858.—Highest, June 25th, 95°. Lowest, February 19th, -17°. Mean, 43°. Rain-fall, 45 52-100 inches.

1859.—Highest, July 19th, 93°. Lowest, January 10th, -20°. Mean, 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ °. Rain-fall, 41 36-100.

1860.—Highest, August 7th, 90°. Lowest, December 15th, -12°. Mean, 43°. Rain-fall, 33 73-100 inches.

1861.—Highest, August 4th, 88°. Lowest, February 8th, -27°. Mean, 42½°. Rain-fall, 40 68-100 inches.

1862.—Highest, July 6th, 89°. Lowest, February 17th, -12°. Mean, 41¾°. Rain-fall, 37 97-100 inches.

1863.—Highest, July 3d, 91°. Lowest, February 4th, -22°. Mean, 41¾°. Rain-fall, 47 29-100 inches.

1864.—Highest, July 20th, 92°. Lowest, February 18th, -18°. Mean, 42¾°. Rain-fall, 29 92-100 inches.

1865.—Highest, September 4th, 90°. Lowest, February 13th, -18°. Mean, 42¾°. Rain-fall, 35 44-100 inches.

1866.—Highest, July 17th, 94°. Lowest, December 21st, -28°. Mean, 43½°. Rain-fall, 32 33-100 inches.

1867.—Highest, July 24th, 90°. Lowest, December 14th, -22°. Mean, 44°. Rain-fall, 36 38-100 inches.

1868.—Highest, July 4th, 96°. Lowest, February 23d, -24°. Mean, 43½°. Rain-fall, 37 43-100 inches.

1869.—Highest, August 20th, 91°. Lowest, March 22d, -14°. Mean, 44¾°. Rain-fall, 45 94-100 inches.

1870.—Highest, July 24th, 95°. Lowest, March 14th, -9°. Mean, 47°. Rain-fall, 33 2-100 inches.

1871.—Highest, May 30th, 90°. Lowest, December 21st, -23°. Mean, 45°. Rain-fall, 36 37-100 inches.

1872.—Highest, July 3d, 93°. Lowest, March 15th, -23°. Mean, 43¾°. Rain-fall, 36 92-100 inches.

1873.—Highest, July 3d, 90°. Lowest, January 30th, -27°. Mean, 43¾°. Rain-fall, 42 29-100 inches.

1874.—Highest, July 15th, 90°. Lowest, December 31st, -17°. Mean, 44½°. Rain-fall, 36 55-100 inches.

1875.—Highest, June 24th, 90°. Lowest, February 13th, -26°. Mean, 42°. Rain-fall, 37 33-100 inches.

1876.—Highest, August 6th, 93°. Lowest, December 17th, -15°. Mean, 45½°. Rain-fall, 33 17-100 inches.

1877.—Highest, July 17th, 92°. Lowest, March 18th, -7°. Mean, 48°. Rain-fall, 34 37-100 inches.

1878.—Highest, July 17th, 87°. Lowest, February 19th, -16°. Mean 46½°. Rainfall, 39 13-100 inches.

1879.—Highest, September 1st, 89°. Lowest, February 23d, -7°. Mean, 44½°. Rain-fall, 29 83-100 inches.

1880.—Highest, May 26th, 87°. Lowest, December 30th, -13°. Mean, 44¼°. Rain-fall, 34 29-100 inches.

1881.—Highest, September 6th, 92°. Lowest, February 2d, -20°. Mean, 45°. Rain-fall, 34 6-100 inches.

1882.—Highest, August 6th, 92°. Lowest, January 24th, -27°. Mean, 44½°. Rain-fall, 30 19-100 inches.

1883.—Highest, June 6th, 86°. Lowest, December 23d, -15°. Mean, 43¼°. Rain-fall, 36 5-100 inches.

1884.—Highest, September 7th, 87°. Lowest, December 20th -22°. Mean, 45°. Rain-fall, 35 7-100 inches.

1885.—Highest, July 17th, 85°. Lowest, March 18th, -14°. Mean, 42°. Rain-fall, 40 36-100 inches.

SUMMARY.

Record of thirty-six years :

Highest Temperature, July 4th, 1868, 96°.

Lowest Temperature, February 7th, 1855, and January 24th, 1857, -30°.

Highest Temperature occurs in May two years, in June six years, in July seventeen years, in August six years, and in September five years.

Lowest Temperature in December eleven years, in January six years, in February thirteen years, in March six years.

Mean Temperature, 44°.

Average Rain-fall, 37 96-100 inches.

As evidence of equable mean temperature, the above table shows that twenty-five out of the thirty-six years recorded varied but 1 degree. and grouping into periods of five years the remarkable result is shown of a like variation of 1 degree or less from the mean of 44 degrees, viz :

First five years,	-	-	-	44½ degrees.
Second five years,	-	-	-	43 degrees.
Third five years,	-	-	-	43 degrees.
Fourth five years,	-	-	-	44½ degrees.
Fifth five years,	-	-	-	43½ degrees.
Sixth five years,	-	-	-	45 degrees.
Seventh five years,	-	-	-	45 degrees.

*Dates of the Ice leaving Otsego Lake, from 1843 to 1885, inclusive—
43 years.*

1843,	-	-	April 26	1865,	-	-	April 5
1844,	-	-	April 13	1866,	-	-	April 14
1845,	-	-	April 1	1867,	-	-	April 15
1846,	-	-	April 7	1868,	-	-	April 16
1847,	-	-	April 25	1869,	-	-	April 21
1848,	-	-	April 10	1870,	-	-	April 16
1849,	-	-	April 7	1871,	-	-	March 17
1850,	-	-	April 24	1872,	-	-	April 27
1851,	-	-	March 30	1873,	-	-	May 4
1852,	-	-	April 26	1874,	-	-	May 5
1853,	-	-	April 9	1875,	-	-	May 7
1854,	-	-	April 20	1876,	-	-	April 26
1855,	-	-	April 24	1877,	-	-	April 27
1856,	-	-	April 26	1878,	-	-	April 1
1857,	-	-	April 6	1879,	-	-	April 30
1858,	-	-	April 5	1880,	-	-	April 7
1859,	-	-	March 30	1881,	-	-	April 25
1860,	-	-	April 7	1882,	-	-	April 6
1861,	-	-	April 14	1883,	-	-	April 26
1862,	-	-	April 22	1884,	-	-	April 22
1863,	-	-	April 23	1885,	-	-	April 26
1864,	-	-	April 21				

The prevailing wind at the time of the breaking up of the ice, has much to do with the date of the final clearance of the lake. If from the north, the ice will frequently lie floating for a week before disappearing, while a fresh southerly breeze will dispose of the whole in a few hours. This is in a great measure due to the shape of the lake, broad at the upper end and narrow and funnel-shaped toward the south.

G. P. K.

THE THANKSGIVING HOSPITAL.

A brief mention of the main facts connected with its establishment, and history to date :

After the close of the civil war, some Christian people in Cooperstown suggested providing a small Hospital for the needy sick, as a Thank-offering for the restoration of Peace and the preservation of the Union. The suggestion met with general favor. The physicians entered with interest into the plan, offering their services. The first steps were taken. Subscriptions were procured. A Fair was held by which about \$1,000 were raised. In 1867 a house on Elm street

was purchased, and remodeled according to a plan of Dr. Horace Lathrop. The house was double, with a basement, and two stories and a half high; the lot was 75 feet front by 158 in depth. The price was \$3,500.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1867, the house was solemnly dedicated to the service of God, and the relief of the poor and suffering, by a religious service, in which Rev. Mr. Buel, Rev. Mr. McHarg, Rev. Mr. Peasley, and Rev. Mr. Clayton, took part. Owing to the unusual severity of the winter, and the scarcity of workmen, it was found impossible to open the building for patients until the following spring.

In January, 1868, the Hospital was incorporated. Five Trustees were elected to serve five years, viz.: Dr. H. Lathrop, Rev. Mr. McHarg, Mr. Elihu Phinney, Mr. F. G. Lee, and Miss S. F. Cooper. Mr. Henry Scott was elected Treasurer. All persons who contributed \$10 the previous year, were entitled to vote. The work of the Hospital was carried on by five Lady Managers, with a house keeper, a nurse, an assistant, and a man under their direction. The number of beds was sixteen. Diseases of the gravest nature were treated, and severe operations were performed. Among the diseases cured were paraplegia, from poison, peritonitis, chronic diarrhœa, varicose ulcer, fractures, matritis, ulceration of the stomach. Among the many operations successfully performed by Dr. Lathrop, Dr. W. T. and Dr. M. A. Bassett, were the removal of cancerous tumors, polypus of the throat, and vesico vaginal fistula, on a patient of 75, by Dr. Lathrop. Patients were received from all the towns in Otsego county, and also from several adjacent counties. About two-thirds of the patients recovered. Among those who died were homeless ones, admitted as incurables. The moral and religious influence of the house was greatly blessed to many of the patients.

The funds for carrying on the work were provided by annual subscriptions, amounting to \$600, partial payments by patients who could afford to make them, annual collections in different churches, voluntary contributions, and annual payments by the Comptroller of the State, in proportion to the number of days' relief granted to the sick, varying in this case from \$300 to \$600. At that date all incorporated Hospitals received aid from the State fund. Among the most generous contributors to the Thanksgiving Hospital were Mr. Henry Frederick Phinney, Mr. Elihu Phinney, Mr. Edward Clark, who at one time gave \$1,000; others, of less means, were also very liberal contributors. Kind sympathy and material assistance were also received from the different towns and villages in the county: Richfield, Cherry Valley, Milford, Springfield, Fly Creek, and others.

The work was carried on successfully until 1875, when the financial

panic caused a loss of many subscriptions and voluntary contributions ; and about the same time the policy of the State changed, and Hospitals no longer received aid in that way. Eventually it became necessary to close the Hospital, temporarily, for want of funds to meet current expenses. The Trustees also passed a resolution by which any needy sick person may receive aid from the interest on the Hospital Fund, by vote of two Trustees, provided not more than \$200 is expended in this way during any one year, and confining the benefit of this sum to the sick, exclusively. Many persons have been relieved from this Fund since the Hospital closed.

The Hospital Fund, with the accumulated interest, now amounts to \$5,328.16. It is the earnest hope of those most interested in the original Thanksgiving Hospital, that the work may be renewed at a favorable time, in the form of a Cottage Hospital, bearing the same name, under the charge of a trained nurse, whose duty it shall also be to train a succession of respectable women for nursing, one or two at a time. Qualified nurses are greatly needed in Otsego county

January, 1886.

S. F. C.

ORPHAN HOUSE OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR.

The Orphan House of the Holy Saviour, a Home and Industrial School for Orphans, Half-Orphans, and destitute children, was incorporated by Act of the Legislature, March, 1870. At the annual Convention of the Diocese of Albany, September, 1870, the Orphanage was adopted as a Diocesan work, and "earnestly commended to the sympathy, and active support of the Diocese," and the erection of a suitable building was recommended.

The first ground purchased, was the house and farm on the lake shore known as the Masters' farm, then belonging to Mr. Henry B. Walker. But the distance from the village, two miles, being considered too great, another site, a hill side on Railroad St., was purchased by the Trustees, twenty acres of land, at a cost of \$5,000. In April, 1871, a small cottage, adjoining the ground purchased, was rented for a temporary home, and October 1st the work was solemnly inaugurated by a religious service, held at the cottage by Bishop Tuttle of Utah, and the Rev. D. Hillhouse Buel. The Matron and one little girl were the only members of the family at that date ; but the cottage filled rapidly, and the following year, November 1st, the twelve children were removed to a double cottage on Beaver St., owned by Horace C. Fish. Mrs. E. M. Stanton became Matron at that date, and continued to labor most faithfully for the children until her death, August, 1884. November 1st, 1874, the family of twenty

children were removed to a larger house on Lake street, recently occupied by Mr. E. Countryman, and at that time owned by Mr. Elihu Phinney, of whom it was leased. This house could accommodate 40 children. Sunday, November 8th, a religious service inaugurating the advance in the work was held by Bishop Tuttle of Utah, at the new home.

November 7th Mr. Charles McLean, then Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, called on the Superintendent of the Orphanage, and expressed the wish of the Board to visit the Institution. November 18th the entire Board came to the house, inspecting the building and the children, and inquiring into the details of the work; they professed themselves much gratified. They requested that the Board might be invited to the house every year. This request has been carried out. As early as 1872 individual Supervisors had suggested that the county children should be sent to the Orphanage. During the session of 1876, after consulting the Trustees of the Orphanage, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution that as many of the County children as could be admitted should be sent to the Orphanage. In accordance with this resolution, as many of the children as could be accommodated were received at the Orphanage; the remainder were sent to a temporary home at Milford.

In 1876 a generous contribution of \$1,000 was given to the Orphanage by Mr. Edward Clark and a few friends of his connected with the Singer Company. In 1879 a renewed application was made by the Superintendent of the Poor for the admission of all the County children to the Orphanage. Mr. Edward Clark, who then owned the house, having kindly consented to enlarge the building for this purpose, it was decided to receive the children. January, 1880, all the girls were sent to the Orphanage, but by a change of plan on the part of the Superintendent of the Poor the boys were sent to the county home at Milford.

The necessity for a larger and more convenient building having become very clear, the Board of Trustees at their annual meeting, June, 1881, passed resolutions authorizing the collection of funds for building, and the purchase of a favorable site. About \$10,000 having been collected, or pledged, eight acres of land bounded by Beaver street, Susquehanna avenue and the river, were purchased for \$3,000. An excellent plan for a brick building was prepared by Mr. R. W. Gibson of Albany, the architect. In August, 1882, ground was broken for the new building a simple service being held on the spot by the Orphanage family, on the occasion. October 5th, 1882, the corner-stone was solemnly laid by Bishop Doane, in the presence of the Trustees and many friends, the Orphans taking part in the service.

September 22d, 1883, the house being completed, a service of Dedication was held in the school-room by the Bishop, a number of clergymen and other friends being present, and the Orphans taking part in the services by singing and recitations. A few weeks later the entire family moved into the new home. On this occasion a debt of \$600, due for rent on the house in Lake street, was kindly canceled by Mr. Alfred Corning Clark. January 1st, 1884, all the county boys were received at the Orphanage.

August 14th, 1884, Mrs. Stanton, after an illness of several months, was taken from the children she had so kindly cared for. On the evening of her funeral diphtheria appeared in the family. There were twenty-two cases and two deaths. The disease was caused by defective drainage. The children were cared for with the utmost devotion by the three grown persons in charge; and watched over most faithfully by their kind physician, Dr. W. T. Bassett. No nurse could be procured in the neighborhood, and no one from the village was willing to come to the house to work. At the end of several weeks, a trained nurse from Bellevue Hospital came to take charge of the sick children. Great pains were taken to prevent the disease from spreading to the village, and happily there was no case outside the Orphanage family.

September 14th, while there were still two patients in the infirmary, fire broke out in the furnace cellar, and spread rapidly. The fire department were soon on the ground, and the neighbors rallied most kindly to the relief of the family. In an hour the flames were subdued. The cellars and several rooms on the first floor were seriously injured. The whole building was in very great danger. It was with thankful hearts that those in charge were able to gather the Orphans in their own dormitories at night, without injury to life or limb. The repairs of the house, costing \$600, and a change in the drainage, were completed in a few weeks. Since that date the children have been remarkably healthy, and the work has gone on successfully with Miss E. E. Stickney as Matron.

The number of children at present is 81; during the last year there have been 107 in the family. Receipts of the year from churches, individuals and board of children, \$6,685.34. Disbursements for provisions, fuel, lights, clothing, shoes, salaries and wages \$6,862.63. Deficit, including unpaid bills, \$500. Endowment fund, \$50. Cost of lot and building \$20,000, of which \$16,000 have been paid and \$4,000 remain unpaid on mortgage.

January, 1886.

S. F. C.

FISH AND FISHING IN OTSEGO LAKE.

In the olden time, say from 1800 to 1825, Otsego bass, salmon trout, pickerel and perch, were taken in great numbers both with seine and hand-line. My father told me that he had repeatedly seen "Old Shipman" land at evening, having the bottom of his canoe literally covered with salmon trout, weighing from two to ten pounds each. Later on, the writer himself saw John DeLong and his associates take out with one draught of the seine, at the "Dugway," at least five thousand Otsego bass, all of one size—about half a pound each, and the entire haul was returned untouched to the Lake, the seine being turned wrong-side out. Not even a short half-dozen was allowed to be reserved for the frying-pan. What a commentary this upon the ruling of to-day, when even the fingerlings, stealthily and illegally captured at that, are not allowed to escape.

The largest single trout ever taken with hook and line, is believed to have weighed about twenty-two pounds, and the largest Otsego bass about six and three-quarters pounds.

Thirty-five years ago, a string of pickerel was taken through the ice, at the "DeLong ground," by Delos Persons, who is still living in the village, the largest eight of which averaged over three pounds each. Pickerel of that size are now extremely rare, these fish having unaccountably decreased in average weight from one and a half pounds to about half a pound each.

The bull-head and the yellow perch, both highly esteemed for the table, have become exceedingly scarce, but latterly small perch are seen in immense numbers, giving good token of an abundant supply in the near future.

From 1820 to the time of his death, which occurred about 1839, "old Commodore" Boden was by general consent acknowledged to be the most successful angler on the Lake, and his method was so peculiar as to be worthy of note. Of quite imposing presence, handsome alike in form and feature, straight as an arrow, and lithe as an Indian, his silver locks hanging gracefully down upon his shoulders, the writer, when a mere lad, has many a time, for hours together, observed him carefully whilst pursuing his favorite pastime. Standing erect, he would paddle out from the mouth of the river to some tempting patch of weeds, and there, in quite shallow water, noiselessly drop his anchor. Then, wielding a rod nearly twenty feet in length, he would "skip" his tempting bait—generally the side of a small perch—with amazing vigor and marvelous dexterity, oftentimes taking fifteen or twenty fine pickerel in less than an hour. To see him strike, manipu-

late and land a big fellow of three or four pounds, his pliant rod bending nearly to a semi-circle, was something not to be forgotten. The "old Commodore" was at that time, beyond all dispute, the most conspicuous figure about the Lake, as much part and parcel of it as "old Shipman," the original Natty Bumppo, was of the romantic hills adjacent, and when at length his little weather-beaten skiff was drawn up for the last time on the beach, the villagers all felt, and felt sadly, that one of its pleasantest and most familiar "water-marks" had disappeared from view.

His *line*-al successor, the late venerable Augustus Short, had a remarkable career. It is fairly estimated that for the last thirty years of his life he took by trolling alone, an average of at least twenty pickerel per day, making a total of one hundred and ninety-eight thousand (198,000) fish, which, allowing the average weight to be only one pound, would have been worth about twenty thousand dollars. It is also reasonably conjectured that there now lies imbedded in the jaws of innumerable living pickerel, that somehow or other managed to escape his lines by "breaking loose," after being fairly "caught," a sufficient quantity of good reliable fish-hooks, "spoon victuals," and other fixtures, to stock a moderate sized country "tackle" store!

In conclusion, a word or two as to seines and gill-nets: In 1851, there were taken from the Lake, with four different seines, twenty-five thousand bass, which at an average of two pounds each, would produce twenty-five tons of fish, worth, at only ten cents per pound, \$5,000. In corroboration of the above, the late Calvin Graves informed a friend of the writer that at about that time, say 1850, his individual share of a single spring's seine fishing, when bass was selling at only eight cents a pound, was over \$1,500.

From 1860 to about 1870 the annual catch of bass and trout in gill-nets, was nearly or quite one thousand to each net or set of nets. Naturally enough, after 1870, the bass became gradually so scarce as to make legal restriction absolutely necessary to prevent their extinction. This restriction, with one or two intermissions, during which the privilege of seine fishing in the spring was so grossly abused that it was promptly withdrawn, has continued up to the present time, or until November, 1884, when our local Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance excluding nets of every sort from the Lake for three years from that time, and permitting only hand-line fishing all the year round, with some restrictive clauses as to black bass, &c. It is to be regretted that this law is not more strictly enforced.

—In the publication called "Forest and Stream" of February 26, 1885, I published an article, written with considerable care, from

which I take the following extracts, which may be thought of interest on this subject :

Otsego Lake is nine miles long by about one in width, running nearly north and south. The water averaging about fifty feet, attains in some places a depth of two hundred, and is chiefly supplied from cold bottom springs. Its only constant tributaries are two small streams, whose entire volume is not half that of its outlet, the Susquehanna River. The upper and lower portions of the Lake, being shallow and weedy, afford ample pickerel grounds, while the middle portion and whole eastern shore are admirably adapted, by deep water and a soft marl bottom, to the coregoni and salmon trout, and nearer shore, by rocky bottom and sharp ledges, to the rock bass, black bass and yellow perch. After further stating that the food supply is abundant, especially of the "Lake shiner," an exquisitely beautiful creature and most dainty morsel, about four inches long, not found elsewhere, it will be readily seen that in no other water of the State could the conditions be more favorable for the artificial propagation of fish.

Without irrelevant particulars we append a record of the actual plantings made in Otsego Lake, during a period of about twelve years :

1872—Otsego bass (<i>Coregonus albus</i>)	-	-	-	74,000
1872—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	8,000
1873—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	150,000
1874—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	65,000
1874—Otsego bass,	-	-	-	94,000
1874—Black bass,	-	-	-	95
1874—Rock bass,-	-	-	-	1,000
1875—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	100,000
1875—Black bass,	-	-	-	105
1876—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	76,000
1877—Whitefish (from Caledonia,)	-	-	-	300,000
1878—Landlocked salmon,	-	-	-	5,000
1878—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	100,000
1879—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	100,000
1880—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	100,000
1880—Smelt (from Hackensack, N. J.,)	-	-	-	800
1882—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	55,000
1882—California mountain trout,	-	-	-	30,000
1884—Salmon trout,	-	-	-	100,000
Total,	-	-	-	1,359,000

RECAPITULATION.

Salmon trout,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	854,000
Otsego bass,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168,000
Whitefish,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
California mountain trout,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000
Landlocked salmon,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Rock bass, black bass and smelt,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,359,000

The operations during 1871, '72, '73 and '74 on our own account and at our expense, were conducted in a small domestic hatchery, and in the most economical manner, by Capt. P. P. Cooper. The total outlay, however, was about \$1,500. Subsequently all young fry were obtained from the State hatchery at Caledonia, at the mere cost of transportation, which was about \$40 for 100,000 fish. This beneficent policy of the State our people fully appreciate, and it must eventually produce grand results.

On a general review of our work we have to speak first of the salmon trout. So rapidly did this fish increase, that in 1878 they were more numerous than at any time within the preceding 30 years. During the spring of 1880, in one forenoon, with a companion, at a single anchorage, in water 55 feet deep, and near the "Sunken Island," the writer took forty-four fish weighing 86 pounds. Thirteen others were hooked, but escaped, two of them large fish, making 57 strikes in less than five hours. A day or two later twenty-nine were taken weighing 50 pounds. During the same week 300 pounds were taken in a single day.

All this was done still-fishing.

In the following summer, the writer, trolling one morning with a Seth Green gang of O'Shaunessy 8s, had twenty-seven strikes, losing two gangs, and taking nine fish weighing twenty-seven pounds. About the same time, Seth Green, who first introduced the trolling gang into our Lake took eighteen or twenty fish in a single afternoon. For the last two years, however, these fish have gradually ceased to bite, until the catch has become so small as to excite serious apprehension and widespread discussion. Among the various theories, some contend with great pertinacity that the trout are all dead, destroyed by some epidemic, which seems impossible, as all dead fish at some stage of decomposition, either before or after sinking, having become surcharged with noxious gases, bloat and float. Now if floating they would surely be seen in large numbers, and if sunken they would either be dragged up by seines or washed ashore. Neither condition having occurred,

this theory must certainly be discarded. Others maintain that the scarcity is wholly due to the illegal use of that most deadly and abominable of all devices, the gill-net. Others still insist that the trout are as numerous as ever, but are either gorged with superabundant food, or else, like some handsome flirts who keep their adorers dangling by the gills for months before pronouncing the fatal "yes," have simply taken a capricious whim not to bite until they get ready.

On a careful review of the whole case we come to share the opinion expressed by Judge Potter, of Toledo, and now concurred in by Seth Green, "that all the salmon trout originally planted in Otsego Lake, excepting only such as have either been taken out by fishermen or devoured by other fish, are there now." It is but just to Mr. Green to add, that his late theory of an "epidemic" was advocated by him simply in consequence of our own statement and belief that there was little if any gill-netting going on in Otsego Lake. Subsequent events, already adverted to, have, however, forced us both to another and very different conclusion. The prediction is therefore made with confidence that if netting of all kinds can be strictly prohibited, the trolling and still fishing for salmon trout will ere long be as satisfactory here as it ever was, and as it is now on Lake George, where, only a few years ago, the fishing was if possible worse than in our own.

Of rock bass (the original plant being 1,000) the Lake is full. It is regarded as an excellent panfish, and being both a bold biter and a hard puller, affords good sport to the angler of moderate desires.

The result of the smelt experiment remains still undetermined, but as the fish, chiefly gravid females, were delivered here in an exhausted state, and from actual necessity deposited at the foot of the Lake, where it was impossible for them to deposit their spawn in the natural way, very slight hope is entertained of its success. These fish, too, it will be remembered, were transferred from salt to fresh water, which possibly may throw some light upon the matter. All expenses were defrayed by Edward Clark, Esq., of Cooperstown, lately deceased.

The landlocked salmon deposited in June, 1878, were procured with much difficulty by the joint courtesy of Prof. Spencer F. Baird and Fred. Mather, Esq., both of the United States Fish Commission. From this plant, most unfortunately, nothing has ever been heard, save in one or two untrustworthy instances, and the experiment must therefore be regarded, like many similar ones in our own State, as a complete failure, the causes of which remain unexplained. From the black bass plant of two hundred in all, an immense product has been realized, hundreds of this noble fish having been seen at a time disporting themselves about the Sunken Island. Despite, however, the most enticing lures, and the most persevering effort, very few have

been captured. The finest and largest are thus far taken in deep water with the shiner gang, when trolling for salmon trout.

Of the 30,000 California mountain trout (deposited in June 1881) 20,000 were placed by Seth Green and the writer at the head of the Lake, near the steamboat landing, and the balance in a cold stream running through Mud Lake and discharging into Otsego Lake. Although nearly three years have now elapsed, not one of these fish has been taken or seen, and the question whether they will appear at all is growing to be serious. If not, it will prove a bitter disappointment, as the experiment was made under the most favorable auspices, its entire cost being defrayed by James B. Jermain, Esq., of Albany.

Lastly, we take up the Lavaret or Otsego bass, falsely so-called, beyond all peradventure the very finest fresh-water fish that swims. Ranked by many as only a highly honored member of the great *Coregonus* family, with which by recent intermarriage, Seth Green himself presiding at the nuptials, it has now become so irretrievably amalgamated as to prevent any possibility of future scientific distinction, this truly noble fish is, we firmly believe, what that sagacious scientist, Governor De Witt Clinton, long years ago pronounced it to be—a “nondescript, and not the whitefish of the upper lakes.” At a still later day Prof. Louis Agassiz, certainly the very highest authority of his time, after careful analysis, pronounced it to be “in its organic structure, a distinct fish, not found in any other waters of the world.” But, apart from these high sanctions, which might well be conclusive, the *Coregonus albus* and the Otsego bass present even to the most superficial observer striking points of difference.

As the Otsego bass has rarely been taken except with the seine or gill-net, and as all netting of every description has been lately prohibited for three years by our Board of Supervisors, it became a question of grave moment whether this very delicious fish could be taken freely with hook and line, and we have, therefore, undertaken to investigate it thoroughly. The following opinions of the most intelligent and experienced anglers and fish-culturists of the United States, and with which this article will conclude, must, we are confident, be read with lively interest, especially as they all agree, in direct opposition to the popular belief, that the *Coregonus albus* can be certainly and freely taken with hook and line.

Seth Green says : “The Otsego bass can be taken with small minnows or red angle worms. I think if your tackle is very fine, and you do not twitch when they bite, they will swallow the bait. Put five or ten hooks (O’Shaunessy 8s, forged) on fine snell, and loop them five feet apart, with small sinker at the end. Bait some with small minnows (one inch or so in length) and some with worms. Cast out as

far as you can from the boat, and let it lie half or three-quarters of an hour on the bottom, feeling now and then to see if you have one on. The best way is to let them hook themselves. The angle worm, if used for bait, should be strung on to the hook with both ends left dangling. When I had the whitefish bites in your lake, I had a salmon trout rig on the same line, and when I felt the bite, made the the same hard stroke that I would for the salmon trout and tore the hook out. A light stroke must be made and the fish handled very carefully."

Charles Carpenter, Kelly's Island, Ohio, says: "Many years ago, when whitefish were much more abundant than now in the lake, seeing large schools of them, I tried various baits and succeeded in catching a few with cockroaches drawn rapidly through the water. Many more were taken by the hook sticking in their gills or sides outside of the mouth."

Hon. Emery D. Potter, Toledo, Ohio, late Superintendent of Fisheries in that State, and one of the most successful practical anglers in the country, says: "I have seen a great many whitefish taken at Sault Ste. Marie of Lake Superior, with a hook baited with a June or soldier fly. I saw a man take eleven in one hour in that way just before sunset. The fishing was done in a deep, still pool, adjoining the rapids, the bait resting on the bottom, where the whitefish invariably feeds. On opening I have found the stomach crammed full of these flies and their larvæ."

Other excellent authorities might be quoted, going to prove the theory correct.

E. P.

JAMES FENIMORE-COOPER.

A TRIBUTE

To the talent, worth and memory of the great American Novelist and Naval Historian ; being an Essay read before the Chicago Literary Society, in 1883, by the

HON. ISAAC N. ARNOLD.

To the American visiting Europe, few places, if any, are more attractive than Stratford-upon-Avon, Abbotsford, Stoke Pogis, and Grasmere ; and it is remarkable that neither the birth-place of any King, Military Hero, nor Statesman, is so often visited. To no Emperor's tomb gather so many pilgrims as to those of Grey, Scott, and Shakespeare.

In our own country there are as yet comparatively few of these genius-haunted localities. True, there are Mt. Vernon and Monticello, Marshfield and Sunnyside, and some others, and among them none are more attractive, both on account of association and natural beauty, than the home and grave of James Fenimore Cooper.

Cooperstown, on Otsego Lake, was the home of Cooper, and his dust here reposes upon the banks of the Susquehanna, under the shadows of the grand old hemlocks and pines and sugar-maples which he so graphically described ; but the lake, the river, the mountain, the rocks, the valley, the forests, and the "openings," are all replete with recollections of scenes, incidents and characters which he has described or created. The Highlands of Scotland, The Trossacks. Loch Katrine, Loch Lomond, and "The Border," are not more full of memories of Scott, than Lake George, the Hudson, the Kaatskills, Otsego Lake, and the Susquehanna, are with those of Cooper ; and the scenery, especially that of the last-named lake and river, are worthy to have been the home of this poet of nature and creator of American romance.

Visiting it lately, fresh from the English lakes, after lingering fondly around the picturesque shores of Windemere and Derwent-water, and with vivid recollections of Ellen's Isle and the Lochs of

"Bonnie Scotland," as well as the beauty and grandeur of Switzerland, of Lucerne, and Leman, and with Como and Maggiore not forgotten, I hesitate not to say, and the statement has been fully endorsed by many distinguished artists of both Europe and America, that for quiet beauty, for picturesqueness of form and outline, for brilliant atmospheric effects, Otsego Lake has no superior at home or abroad. Let me pause a moment before speaking of Cooper, and attempt to give some idea of its attractions.

Otsego Lake is about twenty-two miles south of the valley of the Mohawk, and perhaps thirty-five miles south-east of Utica. It is a body of deep, clear blue water, about nine miles long, and from three-quarters of a mile to two miles wide, extending from north to south, and lying between rather abrupt and densely wooded low mountains on the east, and gently sloping, beautiful and most gracefully rounded hills on the west. The eastern shore, from the rocky summit of the overshadowing cliffs to the water edge, is densely wooded with an almost unbroken forest, and is a mixture of evergreen with deciduous trees, intermingling the dark hemlock and pine with the birch, maple, beech, dogwood and linden, and forming a combination rarely equaled for beauty and variety. On the west side, the hills slope gracefully to the edge of the water, and are covered with all the variety of farm crops, presenting richly cultivated fields, meadows, and pastures, among which are quiet farm houses, with grazing sheep and cattle, and forming a pastoral scene of great beauty.

Here in 1786 came William Cooper, the father of the novelist, and founded the village, and from him it took its name. The head of the Lake bends to the west, as you approach its northern extremity, and here at the foot of a bold mountain called "The Sleeping Lion," and entirely covered with the primeval forest, is the palatial residence of George Clarke. The basin which holds the waters of the Lake, is so raised on every side that only on the south, and through a very narrow passage, does it find an outlet, and this outlet, passing through a thicket of overhanging trees directly under the shadow of Mt. Vision, forms the Susquehanna.

William Cooper, the father—afterwards Judge of the county of Otsego, and its first representative in Congress—having acquired a large tract of land in the valley of the Susquehanna and around the

shores of the Lake, came here in 1786 to reside, and to improve his land, and here his accomplished grand-daughter, the authoress of "Rural Hours," and other of his descendants, have their homes, and contribute much to a social circle unsurpassed in taste, intelligence and refinement.

Judge Cooper was one of the founders of Christ Church, Coopers-town, and within its shadowy "grave-yard" are the graves of the Cooper family for four generations. None among the country churches of America, scarcely any among the rural churches of England, equal in beauty and picturesque surroundings this little edifice. It stands upon the green banks of the Susquehanna, as the Stratford church stands upon the banks of the Avon—but the banks of the Susquehanna are higher and bolder, and it is placed in a landscape of greater variety than that of the Avon. The grounds about the church are shaded with noble and venerable pines, elms and maples, and when the brilliant tints of autumn light up the foliage, the result is a scene which has no parallel in the old world. As Gray, in his inimitable *Elegy* says of Stoke Pogis :

"Beneath those rugged elms, that yew (pine) tree's shade
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

I think all who have seen both will concede that Stoke Pogis does not compare in natural beauty with the Otsego church-yard. As I have said, here have been laid, side by side, four generations of the Cooper family, and here beneath these old Otsego pines and maples is the simple, modest grave of Fenimore Cooper.

"There scattered oft the earliest of the year,
By hands unseen, are showers of violets found.
The red-breast loves to build, and warble there,
And little footsteps lightly print the ground."

As you sail down the Otsego Lake on the little steamer "Natty Bumppo," approaching the village, you see on the eastern bank of the Lake, and directly beneath a bold cliff called "Prospect Rock," one of those beautiful rural cemeteries now becoming so common in our country, and so much more attractive than the cold and formal burial places of the Continent of Europe. On a gentle eminence, its white marble shaft piercing the deep green of the encircling evergreens, in which it is set, is the monument to Cooper, crowned most appropriately with a life-like statue of that finest creation of his genius, the

"Leatherstocking." Its foundation is a green knoll perhaps eighty feet above the blue waters of the "Glimmerglass." Sculptured on the base of the column is the name, only, "Fenimore-Cooper," encircled with a wreath of oak and laurel leaves. On the north, in high relief, are naval emblems illustrating his romances of the sea and lakes, and his naval histories: the anchor, the oar, the Indian paddle for the bark canoe, the naval sword and the harpoon of the whaler. On the east side are sculptured the volumes of his works, with pen, inkstand, and an urn, with incense rising. On the south side are emblems illustrating his Indian stories, bows and arrows, the tomahawk, hunting knife, bear's claws, etc. Crowning a column, some fifteen to twenty feet high, is the statue of the "Leatherstocking." He leans easily on his long rifle, and looking wistfully across the Otsego over the hills towards the west, he seems ready to pass away from the "clearings" towards the setting sun. Clad in a hunting shirt, with deer-skin cap and leggins, his long powder horn and bullet pouch swung around his shoulder, his figure is life-like and full of expression. His dog "Hector" is at his feet, looking up into the old hunter's face with a look so expressive you almost expect him to speak. The statue recalls the honest, ingenious, truthful, sagacious and faithful old "Scout," in all his picturesque simplicity.

Perhaps before proceeding further to speak of Cooper, and some of his works, the writer will be excused the egotism of mentioning the fact, that when a lad and full of enthusiasm and ready to create ideal heroes, the writer knew Cooper, and enjoyed sometimes the pleasure of listening to him in his own library. He was a fine talker, and could narrate a story at his own fireside as graphically as on paper; and, however reserved and distant in manner he may have been to others, to the young lads of the village he was most genial and familiar. Reading his works when a boy, meeting him in his walks among the hills and sometimes listening of an evening to him at his own fireside, it would not be surprising if the writer's estimate was tinged with extravagance, but I think it ought to be conceded to-day, as I tho't then, that Cooper is the first of American novelists.

If one had visited Cooperstown early in the present century, he might have often seen amid the dense forest around it, threading its mountain paths, or in his boat on the blue waters of the Otsego, or

meandering along the wild banks of the Susquehanna, with fishing rod in hand, a fine, manly boy, of clear, piercing eyes, ruddy and athletic, very fond of nature and all out-of-door life, and often wandering far away into the dark forests, with only here and there a small clearing made by the ax of the pioneer. Returning to his father's mansion, "Otsego Hall," at evening, with his basket filled with the "Otsego bass"—evidence that he had assisted in drawing the seine—or with the beautiful brook-trout which then abounded in all mountain streams, or with his game-bag full of squirrels, pigeons and partridges from the hills, the young lad would narrate the adventures of the day, the moving incidents by "flood and field," and doubtless was listened to as eagerly by the inmates of the Hall as were afterwards read the tales of the Indians and of "Leatherstocking," with which his imagination peopled these localities.

He entered Yale College when a mere lad, and after a few years' study he was appointed a midshipman in the United States Navy, and as such he made voyages to England, to Spain and elsewhere, remaining until 1811, when he resigned, and married Miss De Lancey, a sister of the late Bishop De Lancey. Thus he was being prepared for his career; the early adventures of the backwoodsman were blended with the rough and varied experiences of the ocean. The stories of the early settlers of the Otsego, the Susquehanna and the Cherry Valley, their escapes from wild animals and wilder Indians, were mingled with the tales of the forecastle. The boyhood dreams of the dark and gloomy forests, the Lake, the mountain and the glen, were varied and expanded by the experiences and legends of the sea, and all the romance of a sailor's life. Thus the two fields of nature, on which Cooper was to win his brightest laurels, the forest and the sea, were associated with all the recollections of boyhood and early youth.

His best works may be classified into two divisions, in each of which he has attained the highest excellence—his tales of Indian and pioneer life, and his romances of the sea. In these departments he has created characters which are so vivid and life-like that they have taken their position among those ideal characters which live in the imagination and memory like real historic personages, which will never be forgotten. Macbeth, Hamlet, Rob Roy and Ivanhoe are to most minds, as painted by the great English dramatist and Scotch romancer, as real as

Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary, and so are Cooper's "Leatherstocking," "Uncas," "The Red Rover," and "Long Tom Coffin."

Cooper was a keen and close observer both of nature and of men, and his imagination was so fertile and vivid, and his power of word-painting so great that he could present everything he attempted to describe so that it was actually pictured before the reader; and his skill in narration was so great that he seldom failed to seize and hold the attention, so he who begins to read one of his stories is rarely willing to lay it down until he gets to the end. He makes us see the blue lakes in all their loveliness, to feel the dense, dark, pathless forests in all their lonely grandeur. He makes us realize the

"Pleasure in all the pathless woods,
The rapture in the lonely shore,
Society where none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar."

We hear the cataract, we shudder at the storm, we recoil from the prairie-fire raging on before the wind; we are present at the Indian council, the ambush and the attack. He startles us with the terrible war-whoop of the "Delaware," the crack of the fatal rifle of "Deerslayer"; we hear the "Leatherstocking" calling his hounds; the forest and the hills echo with the ax of "Billy Kirby," laying prostrate the giants of the woods, which have withstood the tempests of a thousand years.

And so also upon the sea, in calm or in storm, amid the smoke of battle, or the perils of shipwreck, on the deck of the "Red Rover," or on the flagship of Lord Nelson; on a lee shore amid rocks and breakers, or in mid-ocean in the wildest storms, he seems equally at home. Hence his books not only have a thrilling interest to the reader, but will be ever valuable as containing the best pictures of all those phases of life and society which he has described. Take for instance the early settlement and frontier life of our country as it occurred in New York and New England, and again on the wild prairies of the West, each with its own peculiar incidents, and the novel and racy characters formed by these peculiar conditions, all have been sketched by him as by no other, and these pictures will live when the conditions and characters have been entirely lost in the changes of time.

So of the Red Men: When the Indian shall live only in history, romance and tradition; when the last hunter shall have disappeared

from the last reservation ; when the plow shall have broken up his last hunting ground, and the buffalo shall, like the mastodon, have become an extinct animal, the nature, habits and peculiarities of this race will be studied on the pages of Cooper. I do not say Cooper's Indians are not overdrawn and too highly colored, still, with all their exaggeration, his are the best pictures of the race which can be found.

Bryant declared Cooper's romances of the sea to be the finest ever written. From actual experience, as an officer of the navy, he acquired an accurate knowledge of the sea and navigation. He was thoroughly familiar with a ship, and with the ocean and the weather in all their moods :

"Calm or convulsed, in breeze, or gale, or storm,
Icing the pole, or in the torrid clime,
Dark, heaving, boundless, endless and sublime,"—

he had seen it all, and of those peculiar people, who "go down to the sea in ships," the sailor, frank, fearless, generous, skillful, contending with the winds and waves in their wildest fury, he is emphatically and by common consent the novelist of the sea.

In 1821, when Cooper was thirty-two years old, he published "The Spy," a story of the Revolution. The work was a success, almost equal to that of Waverly, and established the reputation of the author. Washington, and other characters of the Revolution, are introduced, but the peddler Spy is the hero. His unselfish devotion to duty, his fidelity and patriotism, his hair-breadth escapes, his resources in danger, and his devotion to Washington, his readiness to expose himself to an ignominious death, with no hope of reward in glory, and no other motive except to serve his country, and win the approbation of his Chief, have made him one of the most interesting characters in fiction.

Two years after "The Spy," in 1823, was published the "Pioneers." "Lionel Lincoln," another tale of the "Revolution," the scene of which was laid in Boston and vicinity, was given to the public in 1825. "The Last of the Mohicans" was published in 1826. This is generally considered the most interesting of all his Indian stories, and in this the "Leatherstocking," who had already figured in the "Pioneers," appears as the "Scout," and is presented with all the skill and sagacity of the best type of an Indian warrior, blended with all the virtues and none of the vices of that race.

In 1827, having sailed for Europe in 1826, he published "The Prairie." In this the Leatherstocking, who had been presented as a Hunter on the Otsego hills in the "Pioneers," a Warrior and Scout in the "Last of the Mohicans," now in extreme old age appears as a Trapper on the prairie. Bryant says of it: "I read it with a certain awe, an undefined sense of sublimity, such as one experiences for the first time on entering those immense grassy deserts from which the work takes its name," and which Bryant has himself so well described as the

"Fitting floor
For the magnificent temple of the sky,
With flowers whose glory and whose multitude
Rival the constellations."

He adds: "The squatter and his family, that brawny old man with his large-limbed sons, living in a sort of primeval and patriarchal barbarism, sluggish on ordinary occasions but terrible when roused, like the hurricane which sweeps over the grand but mountainous wilderness of the West, seem a natural outgrowth of these ancient fields of the West."

The execution of "Abiram," by the patriarchal squatter "Ishmael Bush," the father, for the murder of his son, is one of the most terrible pictures to be found in ancient tragedy or modern fiction. When Ishmael, as judge and executioner, left the wretched culprit on the platform of the rock, far off, in the solitude of the lonesome desert, with his arms pinioned but loose enough to hold in his hand the leaf of the Bible which his poor sister, the mother, had sent to comfort his last moments, it was an execution far more solemn than though performed with all the formalities of judicial sanction. Cooper has thrown an awful, patriarchal grandeur around the terrible scene. And then how graphic the scene of the moonlight burial, when the father, the executioner, had dug the grave of the murderer, and laying his broad hand upon the breast of the dead—while sister and bereaved mother knelt alone by the side of the open grave—he said: "Abiram White, we all have need of mercy; from my soul do I forgive you. May God in Heaven have pity on your soul."

The "Water Witch," a thrilling story of the sea, was published in 1830. "The Bravo," published in 1831, contains as fine descriptions of incidents in old Venetian life and Venetian scenery as are to be

found—scarcely equaled by anything in Rogers or Byron. San Marco, the oldest Christian church in the world, with its mosaics and brazen steeds, its historic square, the Campanile, the Bridge of Sighs, the Rialto, a gondola race upon the Ledo, the dark tyranny, mysterious police, and terrible treachery of the Council of Ten, are nowhere else more graphically described, and are all woven into a story of absorbing interest.

In 1833 he published "The Headsman of Berne," in which the grandeur of Alpine scenery, the beauty of Swiss lakes, with the ascent of Mt. Blanc, the perils of an Alpine storm and a rescue by the dogs of St Bernard, are all portrayed with his own peculiar life and vividness.

After spending about seven years in Europe, he returned to America, and in 1840 published the "Pathfinder," a story the scene of which is laid on Lake Ontario, its islands and shores; and in this he combines the romance both of the sea and forest. Another phase of his great character, Leatherstocking, is presented; he is now introduced as a lover, and with a freshness and originality never surpassed, while Jasper, the young sailor, presents those qualities of skill, seamanship, courage, frankness and generosity, which made Cooper's earlier sea stories so attractive.

Again, in 1841, in "Deerslayer," the last to appear of the "Leatherstocking" tales, we are once more taken to the beautiful scenery around Otsego Lake, and in none of his works are his powers of description more strikingly illustrated.

The Leatherstocking is the leading character in five of his novels. In the "Pioneers" he is the unrivaled hunter and rifleman; in the "Mohicans," he is a warrior known all around the frontier and in the French and Colonial armies as the unequaled Scout, "La Longue Carabine," as the French called him. In the "Pathfinder" he is "Hawkeye," from the keenness of his eye and his ability to find his way and trace his enemies through the trackless forests. In the "Deerslayer," he becomes the owner of a wonderful rifle called "Killdeer," of almost supernatural excellence, and in his hands certain death to deer or savage. At last he appears, in extreme old age, as the "Trapper of the Prairies," and closes the career of what I think may be called the most remarkable character in modern fiction, for taking him altogether as

described in these several works, and in all the variety of life and incident in which he is made to figure, I know of no creation of ancient or modern fiction more striking and interesting,—certainly he has no counterpart, and he may be called in truth a new creation. He is the poet and philosopher of the woods; ignorant of book knowledge, but instructed in all that nature could teach, with a heart that seemed to drink in instinctively all good, and reject all evil, there seemed to have been blended in his character the graces of the purest Christianity, with all the noblest qualities of the Indian. He was reverent, pious, worshipping the Great Creator, through all his works. As he said to “Mahtoree,” the chief of the Dacotahs, he loved the forests. “I loved to sleep,” said he, “where my eyes could look up through the branches of the pines and beeches to the very dwelling of the Good Spirit of my people. If I had need to open my heart to him, while his fires were burning above my head, the door was open, and before my eyes.” His untutored ear, in all the voices of nature caught the song of the stars,

“Forever singing, as they shine,
The hand that made us is divine.”

There was something very interesting in his conception of the Creator. Like the Indian conception of Manitou, it was grand, majestic, and awe-inspiring, but mingled with it were the love and mercy and fatherly kindness of the Christian’s God. He was sagacious, full of resources, and yet simple and guileless as a child, truthful, generous, self-sacrificing, brave, tender, humane to man and beast. There are scattered all through the *Leatherstocking* tales a simple but sublime morality, equaling that of Socrates, and worthy of one who drew his inspiration not only from Nature, but the Bible itself. With this there is a love of nature, a poetry of sentiment expressed often in homely phrases, but elevated in tone, scarcely surpassed in poetry.

Another and striking, and, so far as I know, entirely original character created by Cooper, is that rough but perfect diamond, the old Cockswain, “Long Tom Coffin.” With all the virtues and few of the infirmities of a seaman, with a grain of superstition, but with deep and profound reverence for the Great Being whose providence a sailor sees too much of to doubt, he is true, faithful, calm in danger; so generous and unselfish, it is with him but ordinary good fellowship to divide his last biscuit with his shipmates. Loving his ship as the

father loves his child, scorning with utter loathing all treachery and falsehood, his life is gloriously ended by his calmly claspng the mast, going down with the ship he would not abandon, his death rises to the grandeur of martyrdom.

The man who creates such characters as "Tom Coffin" and the "Leatherstocking," full of a pure, simple, healthy morality, read as these works are by millions, has done more than the philosopher or the divine to make men good and happy, and it is not extravagant to say that to-day there are thousands who are better and happier because Cooper lived.

While in Europe, Cooper had vigorously, ably and triumphantly defended his country and her institutions against those who assailed republican government. Mingling freely in the highest social circles of England and France, the warm and intimate personal friend of La Fayette, ever a welcome guest at Holland House, and among the most distinguished liberalists of the old world, he was regarded as the champion of his country, and thus he well earned the right to criticise the faults of his countrymen. On his return home, finding many of them not quite up to his ideal of an American citizen, he became sensitive—over sensitive—to their faults, and the defects in the administration of the laws; but this was because he loved his country and wished to feel unqualified pride in her excellence and superiority. Seeing many things which he thought might be improved, he sought by criticism and satire to correct some of the faults and foibles of the people. Hence he wrote and published a series of political novels. He loved his native country so well that he wished to aid in rendering her in all respects worthy the pride of an intelligent and cultivated man. But a considerable portion of the people had been taught by Fourth of July orators, and some of the editors, that our country was very nearly perfect, that our government and its administration were faultless, and that the manners and customs of the people needed no improvement; and when Cooper began to criticise and satirize, the editors of these papers, forgetting the services he had rendered and the glory he had conferred upon his country, turned upon him and assailed him with a recklessness and licentiousness which at first astonished him. But Cooper was a bold and determined man, and after bearing their attacks for a time, he turned at bay and deliberately resolved to

silence the abuse by means of the law. He carefully counted the cost, and determined to ascertain by experiment whether protection could be obtained from the laws of his country. He had reason to anticipate what actually occurred, that the libelers when assailed in turn would combine and make common cause, and seek to utterly destroy a man who had the courage to strike back. I think Cooper in this controversy with a powerful part of the press evinced a courage rarely equaled. Where is there a man to-day who in Cooper's position would dare to accept war with the press? There are few who do not feel that the press is too strong for any individual successfully to resist; or at least that it is in the power of the press to make a conflict with it so painfully disagreeable and injurious that most will prefer to submit to cruel injustice in silence rather than seek to punish the assailant.

The press is to-day less reckless than when it assailed Cooper, and a portion of it has a higher tone; but still all just men regard its tyranny, its licentiousness, its vulgarity, as one of the gravest evils of modern civilization, and feel that there is no adequate remedy for its abuse. Who to-day dare attempt "to put a ring in the nose of this Leviathan?"

Cooper had the courage to attempt it, and the perseverance and determination to accomplish it. As has been said, he entered upon the contest deliberately, and after repeated and long-continued provocation, but having begun he carried on the war with a vigor, an energy, practical skill and an untiring industry, that finally drove the enemy from the field. In the beginning, he made himself master of the law of libel and slander. There was not a member of the New York bar more thoroughly read in the decisions of both the English and American courts, on these subjects, than he. His nephew, the late Richard Cooper, then a young but able lawyer residing in Cooperstown, was the attorney in most of the cases, and prepared them for trial; other counsel assisted, and some of the most important, Cooper himself argued. When he began the litigation, the first suit was the signal for a dozen new attacks, each more libelous than that which was the subject of the prosecution; but the next morning, a suit would be brought against each and every new assailant, and suits would be repeated as often as the libels were published, so that in some instances, several

actions would be pending against an editor at the same time. When an action was commenced, it was pressed to trial with full vigor and prosecuted from court to court, if necessary to the court of last resort, without pause or delay. To this duty, as he regarded it, Cooper devoted several years of the full vigor of his life. He so carefully considered each case, and he was so thoroughly prepared, that he rarely failed.

Bryant says, that in February, 1843, after Cooper had been five years engaged in this warfare, he received a letter from him, saying: "I have beaten every man I sued, who has not retracted his libel." In his eulogy upon Cooper, Bryant says, "I listened to Cooper's opening in one of the most important of these cases, and it was clear, skillful and persuasive, and his closing argument was splendidly eloquent, a leading lawyer saying of it, 'I have heard nothing to compare with it since the days of Thomas Addis Emmett.'" Cooper may be said to have whipped the newspaper press into good manners, at least towards himself. But it is sad to think that a man who had reflected so much glory upon his nation, and a man who, while abroad, was ever ready with his pen and his tongue to defend his country, at any personal sacrifice, should be forced into this warfare in self-defence.

On his return from Europe he repaired the old paternal mansion, "Otsego Hall," for his permanent home. This was a large country house, standing in the center of the village, and surrounded by some four acres of open ground. The hall proper, running through the middle of the building, was twenty-five by about fifty feet. It faced the North, and commanded a beautiful view of Otsego Lake and the hills on both shores and also of Mount Wellington, or the "Sleeping Lion," near the head of the Lake. A castellated cornice was put around the building, and the grounds were laid out and beautified with a large plantation of trees, shrubbery and flowers. Forest trees, both evergreen and deciduous, which nowhere grow more luxuriantly than among the Otsego hills and on the banks of the Susquehanna, were liberally transplanted, and in a short time most beautiful specimens of the hemlock and the pine, the sugar maple and the elm, the birch and all the trees and flowering shrubs, which would flourish in that climate, could be found in his grounds, and in these he took pride, and found in their culture constant enjoyment. By these

means he made "The Hall" one of the most attractive country residences in Central New York. He owned a farm on the side of the mountain east of the Lake, not far from "Natty Bumppo's cave," and about two miles from the Hall. This farm, up among the rocks and the evergreens, he named "The Chalet," and the walk from his home to this farm is one of the most attractive in the neighborhood. Crossing the Susquehanna just below the outlet of the Lake, and passing directly under the shadow of Mount Vision, and turning north, a picturesque road on the bank of the Lake and a wild wood-path lead to the farm perched half-way between the shore and the summit of the hills. This farm Cooper visited almost daily, and as he was as fond of walking as Sir Walter Scott, he could often be seen wending his way with a rapid step to this farm. He composed as he walked, and many a thrilling scene in the "Deerslayer," and other of his later works, were composed as he followed the mountain paths through the forests around "The Chalet" and along the shores of the Otsego.

Mr. Cooper was a fine-looking man, with a large, manly figure, rather tall and stout, with a full, broad forehead, strong features, lips full, firm and determined, with large, clear, grey eyes; he would attract attention anywhere. He had been personally familiar with many of the varied scenes which he described. A backwoodsman, a college boy, a naval officer, equally familiar with the forest and sea, a student, a wide traveler; he had mingled with the highest social circles in England, France, Italy and America. When in London he had been ever a welcome guest at the homes of the most eminent in literature and in public life. He was intimate with Rogers, Wordsworth, and the literary circles of England at that day. In Paris he and La Fayette lived like brothers. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, was his warm personal friend, and often his guest at Cooperstown.

This village was, at the time of Mr. Cooper's return, and long had been, the center of a circle of refined and cultivated men and women such as are very rarely found in a village of its size. It was the residence, for half a century, of the late Justice Nelson of the Supreme Court of the United States. Here had resided General John A. Dix, the eloquent Ambrose L. Jordan, Judge Morehouse, Colonel John H. Prentiss, Robert Campbell, and many others of almost equal dis-

inction. In this circle Mr. Cooper found congenial friends, and here, on the 14th of September, 1851, he died.

Perhaps among the crowds of sensational novels, of which the last few years have been so prolific, Cooper's works may be less read than formerly, yet he still holds, I think, at the close of the first century of the Republic, his position as the first of American novelists.

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF MR. COOPER.

✓ The Editor of this book never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Fenimore-Cooper but once, and that was in Albany in 1850. When introduced to him as "one of the Editors of the Argus," Mr. Cooper very pleasantly remarked: "Then of course you are a Democrat, Mr. Shaw. I also am one, and I suppose for the reason that it takes a first-class aristocrat to make a first-class Democrat." Mr. Cooper impressed us as a genial, cordial, pleasant gentleman. He was on his death-bed when we came to this village, the following year.

Miss Susan F. Cooper says of her father in "Pages and Pictures:—"

His childish recollections were all closely connected with the forests and hills, the fresh clearings, new fields and homes on the banks of the Otsego. It was here his boy's strength was first tried in those sports to which gray-headed men, amid the cares of later life, delight to look back. From the first bow and arrow, kite and ball, to later feats in fishing, riding, shooting, skating, all were connected with his highland home. It was on the waters of the Otsego that he first learned to handle an oar, to trim a sail. Healthy and active, he delighted in every exercise of the kind—a brave, blithe-hearted, impetuous, most generous and upright boy, as he is remembered by those who knew him in childhood.

As a youth and young man, he was very popular with his associates; and in after life, the men who knew him best were his most devoted friends. Says one who knew him well:

As a citizen he was kind to the poor, liberal in every way to advance the good of society and the welfare of the inhabitants of the village. He did not play the egotist. He sought not the applause of the people. He relied on the lasting effects of his labors upon the public mind both at home and abroad, for the establishment of his fame as an author. He visited his publishers (Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia,) often, generally going by stage to the railroad. He kept no fast horses and fine carriages. He had a horse, and some-

times rode him along up the side of the lake, but seldom rode in a carriage. When not in his study he was frequently enjoying a walk about his own premises, examining his shrubbery, plants and flowers, of which there was an abundance.

The following portraiture of him as a public writer, drawn by Hillard, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, is true of him, to a considerable extent, as a citizen :

Cooper's character as a man is the more admirable to us, because it was marked by strong points which are not common in our country, and which the institutions of our country do not foster. He had the courage to defy the majority ; he had the courage to confront the press ; and not from the sting of ill success, not from mortified vanity, not from wounded self-love, but from an heroic sense of duty. How easy a life might he have purchased by the cheap virtues of silence, submission and acquiescence ! Booksellers would have enriched him ; society would have caressed him ; political distinction would have crowned him ; he had only to watch the course of public sentiment, and so dispose himself that he should seem to lead where he only followed, and all comfortable things would have been poured into his lap. But he preferred to breast the stream, to speak ungrateful truths. He set a wholesome example in this respect ; none the less valuable because so few have had the manliness and self reliance to imitate him.

Mr. G. Pomeroy Keese, a relative of Mr. Cooper, in an article on the daily habits of the latter, said of him :

He was habitually industrious, not alone as author, but in all the business of life. He rose early, and a considerable portion of his writing was accomplished before breakfast, which did not usually take place until about nine o'clock. In the summer, hardly a day passed that he did not visit his farm, known as the Chalet, situated about a mile from the village on the eastern shore of the lake, and from its heights commanding an extensive view of the village, and valley of the Susquehanna at the south, and bounded at the north by the hills which girt that extremity of the lake. It was this view, one of the most beautiful in the vicinity, that was the occasion of the purchase of the farm by Mr. Cooper. Its attractions to the agriculturist are not commensurate with the beauty of the situation. Indeed, a more forbidding spot could not well be chosen, as far as a mere return for the labors of the husbandman is considered. The whole farm, of about two hundred acres, is in fact a mountain abruptly rising from the shore of the lake to the height of about four

hundred feet, and with the exception of two or three level terraces of a few acres each, is an unbroken hillside, dotted with stumps in the clearings, but a large part still covered with the primitive forest. It was on this farm that Cooper sought relaxation from his mental labors, and he visited it almost daily in the summer.

The varied duties of the day being accomplished, the gathering shades of twilight frequently found Cooper promenading the large hall; his hands crossed behind his back, his brow carrying the impression of deep thought, his head also doing duty, as far as possible in the way of gesticulation, by frequent and decisive nods of approval or otherwise of his thoughts, to which he often gave utterance in audible sounds—no doubt to be committed to paper the following morning, as he rarely wrote much in the evening. These perambulations were often continued after tea; although usually in the evening he was to be found in the midst of his family, either reading the papers, or indulging in his favorite game of chess with Mrs. Cooper.

The library, the room in which Cooper invariably wrote, was a well proportioned apartment of about twenty by twenty-four feet and twelve in height, situated in the most retired part of the house, and having a southern and western exposure. Its deep recessed windows, dark oak wainscoting and the thick shade of the numerous trees in the vicinity, shutting out the glare of the sun's rays, combined to give it an appearance of quiet and repose so eminently befitting a room of its character; while the sides were well lined with books of a miscellaneous description—which was in a measure owing to an agreement at one time in force with his publisher, by which he received a copy of every book issued by the firm. There were, however, many works of much interest and value, although it is believed a complete set of his own works was not among the number.

Mr. Cooper died on Sunday, September 14th, 1851, aged sixty-two years lacking one day. His funeral was on the 17th, at the Episcopal church; sermon by Rev. Mr. Batten. The body was viewed at the Hall, after which the services in the church were conducted. The interment was in the Cooper burial grounds, Christ church-yard.

THE COOPER MONUMENT

IN LAKEWOOD CEMETERY.

Mr. Cooper died on the 14th of September, 1851. Ten days later, a public meeting of prominent citizens of the city of New York was held, in the City Hall, at which Washington Irving presided, followed two weeks later by that of the Historical Society, and finally by the

great demonstration at Metropolitan Hall, Feb. 24, 1852, when speeches were made by Daniel Webster the chairman, George Bancroft, and others, and the memorial discourse was delivered by Wm. Cullen Bryant.

On all these occasions, the prime object in view was the erection of a Monument or Statue, in one of the public squares of the city. The matter finally took shape in the organization of the "Cooper Monument Association," in March following, of which Washington Irving was president and John A. Stevens of the Bank of Commerce, treasurer. Subscriptions had already been received, and paid from time to time, so that the amount in hands of the treasurer about this date was \$678. No active work was done by the committee, and the matter languished, and was finally almost forgotten by the public.

In 1858, Mr. Alfred Clarke and Mr. G. P. Keese, undertook to raise by subscription a sufficient sum to erect a Memorial Monument in or near the village of Cooperstown, having in view the transfer of whatever sum might be on deposit in New York towards this object. A hearty response from a number of prominent gentlemen gave an impetus to the undertaking, and the accompanying interesting letter from Washington Irving explains his action and the disposition of the New York fund :

SUNNYSIDE, Jan'y 14, 1859.

DEAR SIR :—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 20, suggesting a transfer of the amount subscribed in New York towards a city monument to the memory of Mr. James Fenimore Cooper, to the monument now proposed to be erected in Cooperstown, and for which you inform me you have collected twelve or fourteen hundred dollars. The amount of the New York subscriptions now in trust in the hands of Mr. John A. Stevens, President of the Bank of Commerce, I have ascertained from him to be \$678. This sum was contributed mainly on the evening of Mr. Bryant's discourse on his life, character and genius; \$457, he informs me, being collected on that occasion; \$21 were handed in to him by me from contributors whose names I cannot now recall, and the remaining \$200 were given in two equal sums by Mr. Wm. H. Prescott, the historian, and myself. I learn from Mr. Stevens that no addition to this sum has ever been made, and that there is every probability that the amount in his hands will remain unclaimed. It is altogether inadequate to the statue, or other conspicuous monument, in the city of New York, intended by the original donors; and while I sincerely regret that this plan should fail of accomplishment, I can have no

hesitation in the transfer of my subscription of \$100 to the proposed monument at Cooperstown, and I have no doubt that Mr. Prescott, on application from you, will consent to a like transfer of his \$100. I shall also signify to Mr. Stevens, in compliance with his express request, my consent to a similar transfer of the twenty-one dollars handed to him from me from contributors whose names I cannot now recall, and my written sanction, so far as the expression of its propriety from me as chairman of the committee of arrangements for a suitable demonstration of respect for the memory of Mr. Cooper can give sanction, to a like appropriation of the \$457 collected as above stated, and which it would be in vain to attempt to return to the donors. In this way I shall most effectually aid your object, and come nearest, I presume, to any probable fulfillment of the object of the united subscribers in New York.

I have reason to think that Mr. Stevens will feel warranted in transferring the whole sum in his hands, on the receipt of a letter I shall forthwith send to him, and the donation of Mr. Prescott to be procured by you, and an adequate written pledge of its application to the object in view, which, with the letters of Mr. Prescott and myself he may retain as a voucher for the faithful discharge of his trust.

I remain, dear Sir, with great respect,

Yours very truly,

ALFRED CLARKE, Esq.

WASHINGTON IRVING.

As the result of this letter, the Cooperstown committee received from Mr. Stevens \$678, being the amount in his hands; and on the 30th of May, 1859, Mr. G. P. Keese entered into a contract with Robert E. Launitz, then the most prominent monumental sculptor of the country, for the erection of the monument as it at present stands in Lakewood Cemetery. It was finally completed by the placing of the statuette of "Leatherstocking" upon the top, in the spring of 1860.

This monument is of white Italian marble, resting on a granite base six feet square. The shaft, including the base, die and cap from which it rises, is about 25 feet in height, and is surmounted by a richly carved Corinthian capital. The four sides of the die are beautifully sculptured in bold relief; the front with the name of Fenimore-Cooper, surrounded by a wreath of palm and oak branches, the latter with acorns, one falling and another fallen; the north side, with appropriate naval devices, viz: the anchor, oars crossed, commander's sword and spy-glass; the south side, with Indian emblems, such as bow and arrows and quiver, lance with scalp-locks attached, tomahawk and

necklace of bear's claws. On the east side are literary emblems, books and manuscript, with the student's lamp just extinguished, an inkstand, the pen from which has just been seized and borne aloft by an eagle. On its capital stands the statuette of "Leatherstocking," 4½ feet high, representing him in the act of loading his rifle, and gazing intently in the direction of the game, while the dog (nearly a full sized hound,) by his side, looks anxiously into his master's face, waiting for permission to bound away.

As an interesting matter of record, we present a transcript of the full subscription list in the order in which it was made :

Duncan C. Pell, - - -	\$100 00	Alfred Clarke, - - -	\$100 00
Joseph L. White, - - -	100 00	Mrs. L. Baker, - - -	25 00
S. F. B. Morse, - - -	20 00	Francis March, - - -	50 00
Mary L. Griffin, - - -	20 00	Hamilton Fish, - - -	100 00
Samuel Nelson, - - -	100 00	W. H. Averell, - - -	100 00
Theodore Keese, - - -	50 00	George Clarke, - - -	100 00
Henry Scott, - - -	50 00	J. V. L. Pruyn, - - -	25 00
Schuyler Crippen, - - -	25 00	John B. Beresford, - - -	25 00
Thomas McIntosh, - - -	20 00	Charles L. Austin, - - -	15 00
Elihu Phinney, Sr., - - -	100 00	C. J. Stillman, - - -	20 00
J. A. Spencer, - - -	25 00	Calvin Graves, - - -	25 00
G. W. Ernst, - - -	25 00	F. A. Lee, - - -	50 00
J. D. Hammond, - - -	20 00	Mrs. G. Banyer, - - -	50 00
J. W. Nelson, - - -	50 00	Pierre Van Cortlandt, - - -	25 00
W. A. Comstock, - - -	20 00	Ellery Cory, - - -	25 00
R. A. Leslie, - - -	10 00	James Stowell, - - -	20 00
S. M. Shaw, - - -	10 00	Charles T. Dering, - - -	25 00
J. R. Worthington, - - -	25 00	W. W. Campbell, - - -	25 00
A. B. Cox, - - -	25 00	John H. Prentiss, - - -	25 00
J. F. Scott, - - -	20 00	A. A. Brown, - - -	25 00
Jacob Livingston, - - -	25 00	Robert P. Campbell, - - -	50 00
Kenneth G. White, - - -	25 00	A. Roseboom, - - -	25 00
D. H. Little, - - -	25 00	Samuel Campbell, - - -	25 00
George L. Bowne, - - -	25 00	Dorr Russell, - - -	10 00
H. Sturges, - - -	10 00	Mrs. Henry Laight, - - -	100 00
Maria M. C. Smith, - - -	10 00	H. Lathrop, Jr., - - -	5 00
J. P. Sill, - - -	20 00	P. H. Potter, - - -	5 00
Caleb Clark, - - -	5 00	Wm. H. Astor, - - -	100 00
George Clark, - - -	5 00	Henry D. Cruger, - - -	100 00
Francis Rotch, - - -	25 00	R. H. Worthington, - - -	10 00
John Jay, - - -	100 00	Peter Becker, - - -	5 00
Isaac N. Arnold, - - -	20 00	Sundry Subscriptions, - - -	34 00
Com. Shubrick and friends in Washington, - - -	140 00	N. Y. City Subscriptions, - - -	678 00
		Total amount, - - -	\$3,262 00

THE TOWN OF OTSEGO.

This is the oldest town in the county of Otsego, and originally extended as far as Delaware county on the south, taking in Unadilla. It is now the largest town in the county with the exception of Middlefield, and in 1880 had a population of 4,690—then the largest of any in the county; now slightly exceeded by Oneonta.

The following are the present Town Officers:

Supervisor—Thomas Laidler.

Town Clerk—Charles R. Alger.

Collector—Charles H. Irish.

Justices of the Peace—Jenks S. Sprague, Rufus C. Doubleday, Chatfield Leonard, Clarence G. Cook.

Assessors—Garrett B. Kellogg, Wheeler Drake, Alfred Wilcox.

Overseers of the Poor—Moses H. Lippitt, Albert C. Reynolds.

Commissioners of Highways—Luther Goodrich, Chauncey N. Drake, John A. McEwen.

Railroad Commissioners—Wheeler Drake, James F. Clark, Herbert D. Wedderspoon.

Excise Commissioners—George T. Burnell, Joel G. White, Dewitt C. Badger.

Constables—Walter Van Horne, Jacob C. Snyder, Ransom Eddy, Orville Beadle.

Game Constable—J. Channing Ball.

FLY CREEK.

The settlement of Fly Creek is almost coeval with that of Cooperstown. The tract of land known as the Cooper Patent, of which a condensed account is given in the "History of Cooperstown," extended to, and included what is now a part of, the village of Fly Creek.

William C. Jarvis, a son of William Jarvis, was the first child born on the Cooper Patent in this vicinity, and received a present of fifty acres of land from William Cooper for being named after him. William Cooper Jarvis was born in 1787, and died only a few years ago, and is buried in the Old Chapel Cemetery, just north of Fly Creek.

Among the early settlers of the Fly Creek village, were the Jarvis, Badger, Marvin, Taylor and Williams families. Of these, there re-

main descendants of the Jarvis, Badger, Marvin, and Taylor families.

The settlers of Fly Creek, early in the present century, exhibited characteristics of energy and enterprise, and manufactories of different kinds were established. Among the first was the Fly Creek Pail Manufactory, a little north of the present village. It was carried on by John Badger, grandfather of Ezra W. Badger, and great-grandfather of Dewitt C. Badger, the present Postmaster of the village. The Badger Patent Pails obtained a just celebrity, and the demand was brisk for them over most of the State of New York, and in the eastern States. Even now inquiries come here to know if they are still manufactured. John Badger died about the year 1830, and was succeeded in business by E. & H. Cory, who carried on the business for many years. At the time John Badger carried on the Pail Factory, Orestes Badger & Brother, two of his sons, were engaged in the same vicinity as gun smiths, and made the first rifles made in this county.

About this time Chester and Kent Jarvis were engaged in the making of Carding Machines in Fly Creek; and about 1828, Orestes Badger bought them out, and started on the same premises the Fly Creek Foundry and Machine Shop. Mr. O. Badger was a mechanic almost by nature, original and inventive in inception. He made at his works some large hydrostatic presses for pressing the oil from flax seed, and spent much money in experimenting on them. He also manufactured power looms for cotton factories, and large gear wheels and other machinery for cotton mills. The cost of making experiments and patterns, was too much for his finances, and in 1832 he was succeeded in business by Charles H. Metcalf & H. Bliss. Mr. Bliss was succeeded by Hugh Livingston, and he by Wm. Shepherd, who, upon the death of Charles H. Metcalf, became the sole owner. He carries on now what work is done there.

Orestes Badger, about fifty years ago, started what has since that time been known as the Badger Machine Shop in Fly Creek, and carried on a large business in making the Badger Endless Chain Horse Powers, of which he was the inventor and patentee. Upon his death in 1850, his son Ezra W. Badger took the shop, and enlarged the business of making Horse Powers and Threshers. J. B. Hooker was associated with E. W. Badger for quite a number of years, and the Badger Threshing Machine was known far and wide. This shop, to which a good furnace is attached, is now owned by Dr. J. K. Leaning.

Henry Cheney and Silas Lerow, about forty years ago, commenced here the making of hammers, and for a number of years carried on a large business. They finally removed to Little Falls, N. Y.

About the same time, E. Denio and his brother carried on the manufacture of garden, hay and manure forks. Ceylon North became a partner of Elon Denio, and the firm for a long time did a very large business. This shop was about a mile south of Fly Creek village. Freight costing so much, this industry was removed to Baldwinsville, N. Y., and the shop is now idle. Other and minor manufactories were running here for short periods of time.

Of the religious societies here, the Universalist is the oldest. It was organized in 1805, and was the first society of that denomination in this State. Rev. Job Potter was the clergyman for a long time. The present minister is Rev. C. F. Dodge.

The Methodist society was organized in 1812, and Rev. Seth Mateson was the first minister. Rev. A. Wrigley, is the present officiating clergyman.

The Presbyterian society was organized in 1828. Rev. C. K. McHarg has for a number of years kindly supplied their pulpit.

The following is a list of those now in business here :

Physicians—Dr. John K. Leaning, A. A. Jones.

Merchants—Badger & Son, F. H. Robinson, D. Sibley.

Furniture and Blacksmithing—S. S. Alger.

Boots and Shoes—A. B. Coats, J. Lenegar.

Foundry and Machine Shop—O. D. Niles.

Machine Shop—Wm. Shepherd.

Hardware and Tin—H. E. Jones.

Wagons and Sleighs—Wm. Russell.

Hotel—Chas A. Waffle.

J. K. L.

PIERSTOWN.

This neighborhood was settled coterminously with Cooperstown, and its people have always been closely identified with the village and its interests. It lies on the west side of Otsego Lake, and extends from Leatherstocking Falls north about three miles to the north line of the Cooper Patent. Its first occupants were emigrants from Connecticut and Massachusetts. The twenty-one lots, called in some of the deeds the "Great Barrington Purchase," comprises Pierstown proper; but at this time it is common to designate as Pierstown all the territory north of Cooperstown whose inhabitants make the village their place of trade.

For nearly the whole of the first decade the settlers almost if not quite equaled in number those of the village. During this period mills were built at the falls, and the log houses began to be replaced by frame dwellings. The century just closed since the first settlers

pitched their tents here, has witnessed the building at various points and at different periods, three sawmills, three grist mills and a carding machine on the stream of water that flows over Leatherstocking Falls. There have been at different places, five taverns, three stores, two tanneries, four blacksmith shops two asheries, a pottery, a brewery, a wagon shop, a lead pipe factory, and several weavers' shops. The business in none of these industries or employments is carried on here at the present time. A dilapidated old blacksmith shop alone remains, where occasionally is heard the sound of the hammer on the anvil, as the more than three-score-and-ten blacksmith strikes the feeble blow.

It is not to be inferred from this that dilapidation and decay mark the place; on the contrary the onward march of improvement is seen. Where the "mower whet his scythe at 5 o'clock in the morning," is heard the rattle of the mowing machine; the echo of the flail on the threshing-floor is silenced by the hum of the threshing machine; steam and water power in the large manufacturing towns, producing every variety of textile goods and farm tools of all kinds, have caused the weaver to lay aside his shuttle, and the ring of the blacksmith's hammer here to cease and "mills do not grind with water that has passed." Nevertheless, in no part of the town are there more thrifty farmers, with better or more substantial buildings than here. No one who drives along this street in summer who is not impressed with the beauty which environs him, the tidiness of the dwellings, the richly cultivated fields of grain, the waving grass, and pastures dotted with herds of grazing cattle.

Many of the persons who were among the first to take up land here, are only known by tradition, or as their names appear on record, or are given to parcels of land, viz : David Cully, Joseph Culver, Asher Strong, Amasa Woodruff, Samuel Hough, Moses Root, Grant Miller, Wade, Simonds, Landon and others. The "Hough lot," "Wade lot," "Wade's Point," (now Three Mile Point,) are instances. Wade and Landon were merchants in Cooperstown, and the former had an ashery on the creek where the road crosses it. The lot at the falls was known as the "Smith Mill lot," Stephen Smith having built the first mill erected at that point. In 1794 the place was deeded to Stephen Lee and John Williams, who held possession till 1846, when it was sold to Samuel Johnson, and from that date, except a very limited time, it remained in possession of the Johnson family until 1886, when it was sold by the grandson Edward Johnson to Walter Langdon, of Hyde Park, N. Y.

One of the small number who settled here in 1786, was Ezekiel Kellogg, whose deed bears date June 15, of that year—he with his family having reached here in March preceding, from Great Barrington, Mas-

sachusetts. His brother-in-law, Darius Warren, came the same or following year. The hardships and sufferings experienced by them were great, as there were no mills nearer than Canajoharie, to which place they at times carried grain on their shoulders to be ground, following a trail by marked trees. In Mr. Kellogg's account book is an entry of date of 1788, against Mr. Warren, "by three days going to mill."

Mr. Kellogg built the first sawmill erected on that creek. He was an expert mechanic, as appears from the great variety of articles of wood-work charged in his accounts, also, a weaver of home-made cloth of many kinds. He had a family of eight children, six of whom lived to mature age, four of whom lived and died in the neighborhood, at the ages of 67, 91, 80 and 70 years—average 77. The sons Tracy and John were farmers and natural mechanics, ready workers at carpentry of all kinds; Charles was a blacksmith. The two sons by his first wife, (Mr. K. was twice married,) Wells and Silas, removed, the former to Ohio, the latter to St. Lawrence county, N. Y., where they spent their days. Mr. Kellogg died in 1823, aged 75, and his widow in 1838, aged 82. They were Presbyterians and regular in church attendance. The homestead of this venerable couple still remains in the possession of their descendants, and the century of occupation of it since it was first entered upon, is to be celebrated by a gathering there of their descendants, in August, 1886.

Darius Warren, when he came here with his wife and two children, the youngest, Julius, fifteen months old, was brought on horseback in his mother's arms from Canajoharie, through the woods, with a line of marked trees to guide them on their way. They stopped with Ezekiel Kellogg till a log hut could be built, which was located near the brook, on the farm now owned by his grandson Willard C. Warren, it never having passed from the possession of the Warren family. Mr. Warren's father and mother afterward came to live with him, and from limited supplies, he was led to say "he was sorry he had brought them into the woods to starve," having on one occasion gone to Canajoharie, nearly 30 miles, and bought a bushel of wheat, had it ground, and brought it home on his back. He brought up a family of seven children, three sons and four daughters. The sons were all farmers and lived on the homestead and on lands adjoining it—Russell on the homestead, Cyrenus next, (the farm only two years since passing out of possession of the Warren family,) and Julius on the farm now owned by his son Kendrick. Three of the daughters married and had families—Philotha, Lydia and Lucretia. The other, Charlotte, passed her days on the homestead till her death at the age of 85. Philotha, for many years lived at the homestead, and died there aged 83. Lydia died at the age of 64, and Lucretia aged 90. Cyrenus died at the age

of 79, Julius 80, Russell 83—aggregate years of the seven 504 ; average 80½. Temperate habits and frugal living are evidently conducive to long life. All but one were professed christians and church members.

About 1794 the Clark family came to Pierstown, which consisted of seven sons—Jared, Simon, Abel, Solomon, Ambrose, Cyrus and Cyrenus—two daughters had previously settled here, being the wives of Ezekiel Kellogg and Darius Warren. The mother of these Clarks was a widow, who married Zebulon Metcalf, a widower with a family in which were four sons—Arunah, Roger, Tracy and Charles—who came from Connecticut, and settled on the hill adjoining Pierstown on the west—the four sons afterward became owners of farms adjoining each other, hence the name Metcalf Hill, although no one of that name now resides there.

The Clark brothers who settled in Pierstown, were Ambrose, Solomon, and Abel. Cyrus and Cyrenus (twins) settled on the brick house farm a short distance south from Cooperstown ; previous to that they lived in the village. Solomon lived on the farm next to Kellogg's on the south, where he died in 1814. His widow—a daughter of John Williams, sen.—lived a widow more than fifty years, occupying the farm till her death at the age of 92.

Ambrose Clark, who for a short period occupied the farm afterward owned by Julius Warren, finally settled on the farm now owned by Rufus Wikoff. He was noted for his probity and uprightness, and having held the office of Surrogate for five years from 1808, he was afterward often consulted in the settlement of estates, his experience and good judgment being considered of much value. He was also a Justice of the Peace. The last years of his life were spent in Fort Plain, where he died at an advanced age. Mr. Clark had a family of eight—six sons and two daughters. Perhaps no family in the county of Otsego engaged more in political matters and received as much political advancement as this one. Of the six sons, four learned the printing business—Justin, Israel, Harry and Ambrose. The first two were apprentices in the office of the Otsego Herald, published by Elihu Phinney, sen., Harry, probably with his brother Justin, and Ambrose in the office of the Watch Tower, published by E. B. Crandal.

Justin Clark established the first newspaper printed in Susquehanna county, Pa., and it was published at Montrose. He died in 1822, at the early age of 27. Harry also died in early manhood. Israel published the Watch Tower in Cooperstown, from 1814 to 1817, and afterward went to Albany and published the Albany Register, and gave Thurlow Weed the foremanship. Mr. Weed in his autobiography says : "Here I was permitted to try my 'prentice hand' on editorials." He died at the home of Mr. Weed, in Rochester, while on a

political tour in that part of the State in behalf of Gov. Clinton, leaving a childless widow.

Ambrose W. Clark, the only one of the family living, was for several years editor and proprietor of the Otsego Republican, and subsequently published a paper in Lewis county. He became a resident of Watertown, Jefferson county, and was twice elected to Congress, and was appointed Minister to Chili, during Lincoln's administration.

Julius Clark lived and died in Connecticut. He was a "worthy son of a worthy sire," and was once elected Lieutenant Governor.

Jared Clark, the only one of the six brothers that followed farming, died in Chenango county, leaving a widow, but no children. The widow is living, in her 90th year, a pensioner, her husband having been a soldier of the war of 1812.

Abel Clark, for a time lived in a log house on the west end of the Kellogg farm, and finally settled on the farm now owned by Cornelius Van Horne, first deeded to Grant Miller in 1793 as the west end of lot No. 10. In addition to farming, he carried on tanning, currying and shoemaking. Mr. Clark was born in 1765, was the father of eleven children, only one of whom is living, Joseph L. Clark, who has been engaged in hardware business in New York the past fifty years. Of the other sons, Sherman was a shoemaker, Erastus a tanner, Daniel a clerk to the Phinneys, died in his youth, Daniel 2d became a lawyer. This was a Presbyterian family, and as was then the orthodox custom, "kept" Saturday night, and Sunday night the customary labor of the week-day nights was done. The eldest daughter married Miner Parrshall, who lived and died in Pierstown. One of his sons, William, is a hardware merchant in Syracuse, doing an extensive business; John A., a printer, has been employed in the Delaware Gazette office forty-seven years, and the Gazette has occupied the same room during that time.

Isaac Williams, Jr., was born in Goshen, Conn., in 1777, and at the age of 16 emigrated to Pierstown with his grandfather Isaac Williams and his father John Williams. He drove an ox team loaded with household goods, trudging barefoot beside it the long weary way. In 1796, in his 20th year, he married Elisheba Kellogg, in her 17th year, only daughter of Ezekiel Kellogg. He received from his father an ax and a hoe as an outfit—emblems of the law that bread is to be earned by the sweat of the brow. He commenced work for himself in the mills then known as Smith mills. He was the first occupant of a house at the falls, and lived there till the mills were sold to Samuel Johnson in 1806. In 1810 he purchased of William Stevens the tavern stand and farm next south of the farm now owned by Cornelius Van Horne. In that year he was appointed Under Sheriff, and moved to Cooperstown. In February, 1811, he was appointed Sheriff by the

State Council of Appointment. In 1813 he was elected to Congress at a special election held to fill a vacancy caused by the death of William Dowse, who died before taking the oath of office. The certificate of election was given to his opponent John M. Bowers, the county canvassers not allowing the votes of one town to Mr. Williams because of the omission in the return of the "Jr." The facts were certified to Congress, and the House decided that Mr. Bowers was not entitled to the seat he occupied, and it was given to Mr. Williams. He was again elected in 1817 and in 1823. He was a great reader, and took a lively interest in political affairs, always voting at elections. He died in 1860, in the 84th year of his age.

His brothers, Ozias, John, Joseph and Stephen, were all farmers. The last two left Pierstown early in this century, Joseph settling in Susquehanna county, Penn., where he was elected sheriff, clerk, member of Assembly, and also to various town offices. Ozias for a number of years occupied the farm on which his father first settled, and afterward owned the farm where Ambrose Clark lived. The last few years of his life were spent in Mohawk, where he died at the age of 85. John, though serving an apprenticeship at shoemaking, became a hard-working, substantial farmer, was thrice married, and was laid beside these help-mates at the age of 80 years.

The Pier family, from whom the place takes its name, consisted of six brothers—Solomon, David, John, Abner, Silas and Levi. The last two did not tarry here many years. Solomon was the first occupant of the brick-house farm, in 1786, and there, besides clearing land, made pottery-ware. His stay here was limited to a few years, when he removed to a distant part of the State.

David Pier occupied the most northerly lot of the "Pierstown tract," where he spent his days, farming, and for many years keeping tavern. His son Ephraim succeeded him, and was a man of unusual energy and noted for the accomplishment of great day's work. He was a skilled oarsman and renowned as a fisherman.

John Pier occupied the farm next north of the Warren farm until his death, and his widow married Lemuel Woodhouse. His son Herman Pier was one of the most noted for his eccentricities, oddities and comicalities. He was a faithful follower of the silver rule, "do as you are done by." He was a warm-hearted, kind neighbor, ready to assist others in need of help, even to the neglect of his own work. He removed to Chenango county about 1830, where he died.

Abner Pier, is well remembered as one of the heroes of the Revolution. At the time of Brant's raid and massacre at Cherry Valley, he was tomahawked, scalped, and twice wounded. It has been understood that this took place at Cherry Valley, but a daughter-in-law,

now in her 88th year, says it occurred near Stone Arabia, Montgomery county. The seeming discrepancy is accounted for from the fact that an Indian had Pier prisoner, and as Brant's order had been to take no prisoners, Brant in his retreat discovered Pier, and ordered the Indian to kill him. "He my prisoner!" said the Indian. "Kill him, or I'll kill you," returned Brant. The Indian turned and struck his prisoner with a tomahawk, shot and scalped him. He was shot again by a tory, who discovered signs of life, saying as he fired, "that d—d Yankee isn't dead!" Notwithstanding all this, he was rescued, and nursed back into robust health. Consciousness was not entirely blotted out in that awful experience, and when speaking of it, he denounced the tories as more inhuman than the Indians. He lived to become the father of a family of eight children, and died about the year 1813. George Pier, his eldest son enlisted in the war of 1812, serving as a musician. He afterward became a famous Kent-bugle, fife and clarionet player and music teacher. He died in 1831, in his 37th year. His son Edwin Pier, and also his sons Erastus and Emerson, enlisted in the Union army, making four generations in a direct line who have served in the wars in defense of their country—a fact not of frequent occurrence. The widow of George Pier is a daughter of Isaac Williams, and is a pensioner under the law granting pensions to widows of soldiers in the war of 1812. There were several other grandsons of Abner Pier, the sons of Hiram, and Abner, Jr., who served in the Union army, but their names are not at hand to record. A daughter of Abner, sen., is living at Addison, N. Y., in her 80th year. No one bearing the name of Pier is now a resident of Pierstown.

Of the number of Revolutionary patriots who settled in Pierstown, and made it their home through life, perhaps no one was more highly esteemed or held a warmer place in the hearts of his neighbors than Capt. Seth Doubleday. He came to Pierstown in 1793, bought the east end of lot No. 17, on which he resided till his death. At the age of 15, then an apprentice to the weaver's trade, he availed himself of the law freeing apprentices if they would serve in the continental army, and enlisted as a private and served three years. In this time he participated in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth, and was with Washington's army while in winter quarters at Morristown and Valley Forge. After his return from the army, he served the balance of his apprenticeship, and soon after reaching the age of 21 married Miss Barthena Clark, and moved to New Lebanon, N. Y., about 1786, and resided there till 1793. He was the father of eight children. Of this number four married, and lived and died in Otsego—Amelia, Seth, Lewis, and Lester C., the latter spending his days on the homestead. Seth, Jr., passed his days

in Cooperstown, where he held the office of Postmaster, and was also a Justice of the Peace. Capt. Seth Doubleday, born in Lebanon, Ct., in 1761, was one of a family of twenty-five children, (his father was married three times,) seventeen living to mature age. He was one of seven brothers who were soldiers of the Revolution, some of whom were victims of terrible suffering in the enemy's prison ships. The patriotism of the Doubledays did not die out with that generation. Three of Capt. Seth's grandsons were in the war for the Union, and also several of his grand-nephews; among the number were Gen. Abner Doubleday, Fort Sumter's hero; Gen. Ulysses F. Doubleday, who won his promotion on other fields, and Lieut. Ulysses Doubleday, who was killed at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., a brother of William A. Doubleday of Pierstown.

Oliver Stephens, a lad of 18 summers, came with his brother-in-law Solomon Pier, for whom he worked, and with his earnings he bought the lot next south of the brick house farm, cleared the land, and built the house and barn which are still standing, and where he lived till his death at the age of 58. His father and mother and five brothers—William, Daniel, James, Jerry, (then spelled Jarah,) and Josiah—came here later. Daniel was in the Revolutionary war, was shot through the body while out scouting, being fired upon by Indians lurking about Fort Stanwix. He managed to get to the river, crawled under the overhanging bank upheld by the roots of a tree. Before the Indians could find him to get his scalp, they were driven off by soldiers from the Fort, and he was rescued. He lived a number of years, but his death was said to have resulted from the effects of his wound. William kept the tavern on the place now occupied by Curtis Barnum. Jerry, a blacksmith, had his shop on the place now owned by Justin C. Williams. Jerry, James and Josiah early in the present century removed to Susquehanna county, Penn.

There were other Revolutionary soldiers residents of Pierstown, whose history would be interesting could it be obtained—Chauncey Newel, Samuel McKean, Capt. Isaac Williams, sen. Also soldiers of 1812—Jesse Tefft, Chauncey N. Chapman, and others.

James Allen, a Scotchman, was quite a noted character in Pierstown. He came to this country in 1801, and seeking the Scotch settlement then forming in Burlington, stopped at Cooperstown, where he found an opening for his trade as a mason, and became the employee of Judge Cooper as master mason in building the stone house on the corner of Main and River streets. During this period he became well acquainted with the Cooper boys, and was particularly friendly with Richard. In after years, when Mr. Allen had purchased the farm now owned by his nephew James Allen, Richard

Cooper, in one of his visits there, went to a spring on the farm and then after eating an apple, turned over a sod with the heel of his boot and planted the core, saying: "There, James, when that seed grows and becomes a tree look upon the fruit and think of Dick Cooper." Although 80 years have passed, the tree remains in full vigor and is known as the Cooper tree. Mr. Allen was a dogmatic Scotch Presbyterian, and is introduced in Fenimore Cooper's "Wyandotté or the Huttéd Knoll," as "Jamie Allen, the Scotch Mason," holding theological discussions with other characters in that work. He was remarkable for his accuracy in leveling and plumbing, using the level or plumb only occasionally, so trained was his eye. Judge Cooper at times would delight to rouse the ire of the Scotchman, and would displace a stone, and await discovery, but at a safe distance, for the trowel was a formidable weapon in the hands of the irate Scotchman. Then at the solicitation of the Judge, all hands would go over to the log tavern and share a bottle of wine.

Very early in the present century, Steven Fitch became the owner of the farm originally settled by Solomon Pier, and built the brick house, kept tavern and a store. He had a family of six sons—Buckingham, Aaron, Isaac, Zadock, Abijah, and Jonathan. Five of the six, at different periods became residents of Cooperstown. Buckingham kept a grocery store on the northwest corner of what are now known as Main and Pioneer streets; Isaac kept the hotel now known as the "Central," and Aaron was the proprietor of the one at present known as "Carr's Hotel," which the widow kept for a number of years after his death, and was known as the "Widow Fitch" hotel. Jonathan kept a bakery, and Zadock spent the last years of his life in Cooperstown a retired farmer. The other brother became a resident of Auburn, and one of its most prominent citizens.

The location of the mills and other establishments on the creek in Pierstown was as follows: The first gristmill was built by Stephen Smith, below the falls; the second is supposed to have been built by John Williams, which after his death was sold with the farm to Samuel Johnson in 1806. It stood a few rods west of the old mill building now standing, which was built by Geo. W. Johnson. It has not been used as a mill for a number of years—the stream which in former times furnished water sufficient to run the mill at all seasons having become in summer time but a little rill. On the brink of the falls a sawmill was kept up till the failure of the water. A short distance up the stream a carding machine was built by Johnson, and some seasons Joseph Perkins had it charge, his sign, painted on the fence, read, "Wool carded by Jo!" The building was afterward used by Caleb Thayer in the manufacture of lead aqueduct pipe. Still

farther up the creek on the premises now owned by Widow Brainard, Roswell Peabody had a tannery, and also a shoe shop. On the Kellogg farm was built the first sawmill on the creek; on the brick house farm the first occupant, Solomon Pier, made pottery. Where the road crosses the creek, near Cornelius Van Horne's, on the west bank stood Norman Landon's ashery. On the other side of the road Abel Clark had his tannery, barkmill, shoemaker's shop, &c. Nothing remains to tell of any of these places except the old gristmill at the falls. A sawmill built by B. S. Howe at a later date, stood on the lake shore, the water of the creek being conveyed to it by a race-way across a neck of land. Near by on the creek stood a building occupied by Charles Thurston as a turning shop, and afterward by others it was made a shingle mill; the place was called "Noggin town." Samuel Wood, a famous augur-maker, worked many years in a little shop at the Johnson mills, boarding with Johnson's family. Afterward he occupied a place on Fenimore farm, where his shop was destroyed by fire. Samuel Johnson, besides carrying on milling business, was a wagon-maker. His shop was located in the triangular piece of ground in front of his dwelling, the road to the mill from the north passing between the shop and house.

About 1816 David Patten, a native of Scotland, built a brewery near the source of the creek, on the road leading over "Rum Hill." Geo. T. Dalphin was afterward proprietor, and rebuilt it, and the business was continued till his death, which occurred not far from 1840. The building is yet standing. Adjoining these premises Jacob Gates kept a tavern, a small store, had an ashery, also a blacksmith shop, where quite a business was carried on making axes, with a grindstone near by, driven by water, to grind them. The brewery premises are now owned by a descendant of Mr. Patten, and the Gates property—the old tavern stand, store, &c.—is owned by Richard Van Horne. Mr. Gates was proprietor of one of the two lines of stages between Cooperstown and Richfield Springs, which ran in opposition one summer, through Pierstown past his places of business.

THE COUNTY OF OTSEGO.

The county of Otsego was set off from Montgomery in 1791, and Cooperstown designated as the county seat. A part of Schoharie was taken off in 1795, and a part of Delaware in 1797. The county as at first organized comprised only two towns—Cherry Valley and Otsego. As the population increased other towns were formed, as follows :

BURLINGTON was formed from the town of Otsego in 1792. It retained its original dimensions until 1797, when Pittsfield was set off and in 1808 it lost the territory comprising Edmeston. Settlements were made in Burlington as early as 1790.

BUTTERNUTTS was formed from the town of Unadilla, February 5, 1796. In 1849 the town was divided, and the present town of Morris created. First settlement was in 1786, and large tracts of land now embraced within the town were purchased and located in 1787.

The principal village, Gilbertsville, has suffered severely from fires : That of 1866, when a large part of the business portion of the village was destroyed, and the more disastrous conflagration of 1874. The Gilbertsville Academy and Collegiate Institute located here was erected in 1839, and opened for scholars in 1840.

CHERRY VALLEY, "the historic town of Otsego," was formed from the town of Canajoharie, Montgomery county, in 1791. In 1797, Middlefield, Springfield and Worcester were created from its territory, and in 1854 Roseboom was set off. It was settled as early as 1740, and rapidly advanced in population and importance until the massacre of 1778, which for a short time checked the growth and prosperity of the town and village. The Cherry Valley Academy, which had for many years a very high standing among institutions of learning, was founded in 1796. The village of Cherry Valley was incorporated in 1812.

DECATUR was formed from Worcester in 1808, is watered by the two creeks, tributaries of the Schenewus. Was first settled about 1790.

EDMESTON was formed from the town of Burlington in 1808. Was first settled about 1770 by persons sent to locate and improve the tract of land granted to Colonel Edmeston.

EXETER was formed from the town of Richfield in 1799. The surface is generally hilly, soil is good and well adapted to grazing. Was first permanently settled about 1789. On the place subsequently known as the "Herkimer farm" a small improvement had been made prior to the Revolution.

HARTWICK was formed from the town of Otsego in 1802. Derived its name from John Christopher Hartwig or Hartwick, who on the 29th day of May, 1752, received from the Indians a deed of land embracing nearly the whole territory of the present town. Was first settled about 1790.

LAURENS was formed from the town of Otego in 1810. Was first settled in 1773, Joseph Mayall being the first white settler. He was followed in 1774 by John Sleeper, a Quaker preacher, who built the first grist and saw mill in the town.

MARYLAND was formed from the town of Worcester in 1808. Was first settled in 1790, in the locality now known as the Maryland station. Its principal village, Schenevus, has become, since the building of the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad, one of the leading villages on the line of the road.

MIDDLEFIELD was formed from the old town of Cherry Valley in 1797; the territory was known in Revolutionary days as "Newtown Martin." Was first settled about 1760, and a very large proportion of its early settlers served in the Revolutionary struggle.

MILFORD was formed from the town of Unadilla in 1796, and named "Suffrage." Name was changed to Milford in 1800. Settlements were begun in this town before the Revolution, but the border wars caused them to be abandoned, and first permanent settlement was made in 1783.

MORRIS was formed from the town of Butternuts in 1849. The first settlement was made about the year 1770. A considerable number of the early settlers of Morris were refugees from France, and settled soon after the beginning of the French revolution.

NEW LISBON—Upon the organization of Otsego county in 1791, the territory embraced in the present town of New Lisbon comprised a portion of the town of Otsego. In 1792 it was embraced in the town of Burlington. In 1797 it was set off from Burlington as Pittsfield, and in 1806 was organized as Lisbon. In 1808 the name was changed to New Lisbon. Was first settled about 1773.

ONEONTA—The territory comprised within the present boundaries of Oneonta was set off from Unadilla in 1796, as Otego; name was

changed to Oneonta in 1830. The village of Oneonta is the largest village of the county, and rapidly growing in wealth and importance.

OTEGO was organized from towns of Franklin and Unadilla in 1822, as Huntsville. Name was changed to Otego in 1830. The settlement of the town commenced soon after the close of the Revolution, and as early as 1787.

OTSEGO was organized as a part of Montgomery county in 1788. As originally formed, it included, in addition to its present territory, all that embraced within the bounds of Richfield, Plainfield, Exeter, Burlington, Edmeston, Hartwick, New Lisbon, Pittsfield, Milford, Laurens, Morris, Oneonta, Butternuts and Unadilla, and parts of other towns. The settlement of the town was commenced as early as 1786.

PITTSFIELD was formed from the town of Burlington in 1797, being the tenth town erected after the organization of the county. In 1806 the present town of New Lisbon was set off. Was first settled about 1793.

PLAINFIELD was formed from the town of Richfield in 1799. Was first settled in 1793, and though occupying an isolated position, was about as rapidly settled as any of the adjoining towns.

RICHFIELD was formed from the town of Otsego in 1792, and is the extreme northern town of the county. The most distinguishing feature of the town is its rich mineral waters which abound so extensively near the northern extremity of Canadarago lake. Was first settled about 1758. The village of Richfield Springs dates its birth as a watering place to the year 1820, at which time Dr. Manley bought the land embracing what is now the Manley spring on the grounds of the Spring House, and prepared the spring for public use. The village has a healthy growth.

ROSEBOOM was formed from the town of Cherry Valley in 1854, and named in honor of Abram Roseboom. This was the last town organized in the county. The first settlement was made about 1800.

SPRINGFIELD was formed from the town of Cherry Valley in 1797. Was first settled in the year 1762. In 1778, Brant came to Springfield with a party of Indians, burned the buildings, and carried away several male prisoners as captives. The women and children were left uninjured. This invasion put a stop to further settlement for several years, but the town was rapidly settled after the Revolution. It is now one of the finest farming regions in the State.

UNADILLA was one of the three towns first formed after the organization of the county, being set off from Otsego in 1792. The towns

of Butternuts, Suffrage (now Milford,) and Otego (now Oneonta,) in 1796, Huntsville (now Otego,) in 1822, were taken from Unadilla, and a small portion was added to Butternuts in 1857. It was first settled about 1790.

WESTFORD was formed from the town of Worcester in 1808. It was first settled about the year 1790. In 1793 many settlements were made, and by the year 1800 the town was quite well peopled, the settlers largely coming from New England.

WORCESTER was formed from the town of Cherry Valley in 1797, and embraced, in addition to its present territory, the towns of Maryland, Decatur and Westford, set off in 1808. The first settlements were made soon after the Revolution, in about the year 1788.

PRESENT COUNTY OFFICERS.

County Judge—George Scramling.

Surrogate—Albert C. Tennant.

District Attorney—Clarence L. Barber.

Justices of Sessions—Seymour Scott, Smith S. Sheldon.

County Clerk—George Van Horn.

Sheriff—Olcott McCredy.

Treasurer—Edwin S. Bundy.

School Commissioners—Theodore L. Grout, Daniel Washburn.

Superintendent of Poor—Horace Sliter.

Coroners—Charles E. Parrish, Maryland, Cyrus E. Stebbins, Morris, Benjamin A. Church, Oneonta, John K. Leaning, Fly Creek.

Loan Commissioners—H. M. Hooker, Cooperstown, W. H. Parker, Otego.

Members of Assembly—Lowell S. Henry, Schuyler's Lake, Frank B. Arnold, Unadilla.

COUNTY JUDGES from the organization of the county until 1886. They were first made elective in 1846 :

William Cooper,	1791	Samuel S. Bowne,	1851
Joseph White,	1800	Levi C. Turner,	1855
John C. Morris,	1823	*Edwin M. Harris,	1862
George Morell,	1827	Elijah E. Ferry,	1863
James O. Morse,	1832	Hezekiah Sturges,	1867
Jabez D. Hammond,	1838	Samuel S. Edick,	1871
Charles C. Noble,	1843	Samuel A. Bowen,	1877
James Hyde,	1847	George Scramling,	1883

*Appointed to fill vacancy, Turner resigning.

SHERIFFS, under the first constitution, were appointed annually, and no person could hold the office for more than four years in succession :

Richard R. Smith,	1791	Benjamin Gilbert,	1810
Benjamin Gilbert,	1792	Isaac Williams, Jr.,	1811
Samuel Dixon,	1793	William Sprague,	1813
Benjamin Gilbert,	1794	James Hawks,	1815
Uriah Luce,	1798	Paschal Franckot,	1819
Benjamin Gilbert,	1799	Seth Chase,	1820
Solomon Martin,	1802	Joseph B. Walton,	1821
Arunah Metcalf,	1806		

Under the Constitution of 1821 the office of Sheriff was made elective and limited to one term of three years :

Joseph B. Walton,	1822	Harmon Edmunds,	1854
John H. Hiser,	1825	Thomas Heath,	1857
Harvey W. Babcock,	1828	Andrew A. Mather,	1860
Don F. Herriek,	1831	Wm. Comstock,	1863
Levi Judson,	1834	Harvey W. Brown,	1866
Halsey Spencer,	1837	Daniel Franklin,	1869
Henry Jones,	1840	Alexander N. Benedict,	1872
Ames Winsor,	1842	Peter Barton,	1875
John Brown,	1845	James F. Clark,	1878
Jonas Platner,	1848	John Kelly,	1881
Seth H. Field,	1851	Olcott McCredy,	1884

COUNTY CLERKS have held office as follows. They were first elected in 1822 :

Jacob Morris,	1791	Samuel North,	1849
John Russell,	1801	Wm. C. Field,	1852
Francis Henry,	1813	George W. Ernst,	1855
George Morell,	1815	Augustus R. Elwood,	1858
William Nichols,	1821	David A. Avery,	1861
William Nichols,	1822	Don. F. Lidell,	1864
Edward B. Crandall,	1825	*John Marsh,	
Abner Cook, Jr.,	1828	Stephen Estes,	1866
Horace Lathrop,	1831	E. Delavan Hills,	1869
George C. Clyde,	1834	Walter H. Bunn,	1872
Jesse Rose,	1837	Walter H. Bunn,	1875
Samuel Russell,	1840	Fayette L. Gilbert,	1878
George B. Wilson,	1843	George Van Horn,	1881
Charles McLean,	1846	George Van Horn,	1884

*Appointed *vice* Lidell, who died July 4, 1866.

SURROGATES were appointed for an unlimited period until made elective by the constitution of 1846. They have served as follows :

James Cannon,	1791	George A. Starkweather,	1833
Moss Kent,	1794	James Brackett,	1841
Philip Vandever,	1804	Schuyler Crippen,	1845
Ferdinand Vandever,	1805	Hiram Kinne,	1847
Ambrose Clark,	1808	Thomas McIntosh, Jr.,	1855
Bille Williams, Jr.,	1813	Edward M. Card,	1863
Ambrose L. Jordan,	1815	Byron J. Seefield,	1867
Nathaniel Fenton,	1818	James H. Keyes,	1877
William G. Angel,	1821	Albert C. Tennant,	1883
Elisha Foote,	1824		

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, under the first constitutions, and until the constitution of 1846, were appointed by the Court of General Sessions in each county, and the appointments in Otsego were as follows:

Ambrose L. Jordan,	1818	Louis L. Bundy,	1853
Robert Campbell,	1820	Edwin Countryman,	1859
Samuel Chase,	1821	James A. Lynes,	1862
E. B. Morehouse,	1829	Samuel S. Edick,	1865
Schuyler Crippen,	1837	Samuel A. Bowen,	1871
John B. Steele,	1845	Philor Benedict,	1877
Dewitt C. Bates,	1847	Robert M. Townsend,	1880
Elijah Brown,	1850	Clarence L. Barber,	1883

COUNTY TREASURERS.—Previous to the present Constitution the office was filled under appointment by the Board of Supervisors. For about 30 years previous to 1848, the office was held by Henry Phinney, who succeeded his father Elihu Phinney, and who was probably the first Treasurer of the County. Papers dated 1797 are on file made out by him as Treasurer. The office has been held by the following persons by election : John L. McNamee, Cha's J. Stillman, Edwin M. Harris, Dorr Russell, James I. Hendryx, Horace Lathrop, David A. Avery, Marcus Field, Frederick L. Palmer, J. Fred Reustle, Edwin S. Bundy.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.—Since this office was made elective in 1856, the following persons have been elected in the districts of Otsego, as follows : 1st District—Albert G. Tuthill, Nelson O. Wendell, Chas. F. Thompson, Julius R. Thompson. Chas. F. Thompson—two terms, Nahum T. Brown, Albert G. Tuthill, Theodore L. Grout. 2d District—Milo H. Gross, Henry T. Harris, Martin Shepherd, William Church, Henry R. Washbon, Benj. C. Gardner, Eli R. Clinton, Jr., Warren L. Baker, Edward E. Beals, Abram G. Miller, Philetus P. Bentley, Daniel Washburn.

CONGRESSMEN.—The Representatives from Otsego, from the formation of the government until now, have been :

Wm. Cooper,	4th and 6th	Sherman Page,	23d, 24th
John Russell,	9th and 10th	John H. Prentiss,	25th, 26th
Arunah Metcalf,	12th	Samuel S. Bowne,	27th
*Wm. Dowse,	13th	Jeremiah E. Cary,	28th
†John M. Bowers,	13th	Geo. A. Starkweather,	30th
Isaac Williams, Jr.,	13th, 15th	William W. Snow,	32d
and 18th		George W. Chase,	33d
Joseph Lyman,	16th	Oliver A. Morse,	35th
James Hawks,	17th	Richard Franchot,	37th
W. G. Angell,	19th, 21st, 22d	Wm. C. Fields,	40th
Samuel Chase,	20th	David Wilber,	43d, 46th

*Died before taking the oath of office. †Seat contested and decided in favor of Williams.

Five of this number were twice elected, viz : Messrs. Cooper, Russell, Page, Prentiss and Wilber. - Two others, Williams and Angell, served three terms each.

ELECTORS.—Previous to 1825, the Legislature chose the Presidential Electors. At the election in 1828, they were chosen by Congressional Districts, and by an act of the legislature of 1829, the present general ticket system was established. The following is the list of those from Otsego county :

Thomas Brooks,	1804	Peter Collier,	1832
Thomas Shankland,	1808	Joshua Babcock,	1836
John Russell,	1812	Jacob Livingston,	1840
Israel W. Clark,	1816	Lemuel Pattengill,	1844
Farrand Stranahan,	1820	Lyman J. Walworth,	1852
Edward B. Crandal,	1824	Ebenezer Blakeley,	1864
Elkanah Brush,	1828	Edmund A. Ward,	1876

OTHER OFFICIALS.—*State Officers chosen from Otsego County.*—Levi S. Chatfield, Attorney General ; Samuel North and Hezekiah Sturges, Canal Appraisers ; Wm. Campbell and Jabez D. Hammond, Regents of University ; Ebenezer Blakeley, State Assessor ; William H. Averell, Bank Commissioner.

State Senators from Otsego county : Jabez D. Hammond, Farrand Stranahan, Stukeley Ellsworth, Levi Beardsley, Sumner Ely, David H. Little, Harmon Bennett, Francis M. Rotch, Addison M. Smith, Geo. H. Andrews, Adam Storing, Augustus R. Elwood, David P. Loomis, Samuel S. Edick, Andrew Davidson.

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1821 : Joseph Clyde,

Ransom Hunt, Wm. Park, David Tripp, Martin Van Buren, (Van Buren was a resident of Albany county.) Convention of 1846 : Levi S. Chatfield, Samuel Nelson, David B. St. John.

Judicial.—Circuit Judge, Samuel Nelson ; Justices of Supreme Court, Eben B. Morehouse, Schuyler Crippen, Wm. W. Campbell and Edwin Countryman.

OTSEGO COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

This was organized March 7th, 1813, by Jacob Morris, John Smith, George Pomeroy, Isaac Cooper, Ralph Worthington, Hinkley Walker, John Luce, John H. Prentiss, Seth Cook, James Averell, Jr., John F. Ernst and Henry Jones, in the school house of the village of Cooperstown. It was legally incorporated on the 10th of the same month.

First officers.—Rev. Daniel Nash, president ; Rev. Andrew Oliver, 1st vice-president ; Rev. Eli F. Cooley, 2d vice-president ; Rev. John Smith, corresponding secretary ; Rev. Henry Jones, recording secretary ; George Pomeroy, treasurer.

Managers.—Jacob Morris, Rev. W. Colton, William Campbell, Calvin Hurlburt, Thomas Fuller, Elisha Foote, Isaac Cooper, Rev. Mr. Bostwick, Abraham Lippett.

This Society appointed Rev. Andrew Oliver of Springfield, Rev. Eli F. Cooley of Cherry Valley, and Mr. James Fenimore Cooper of this village as delegates to co-operate with others in the formation of the American Bible Society in 1816. By this fact it is seen that the former is the older Society. In June, 1816, it became auxiliary to the American Bible Society, and still continues such.

Its present officers are : Rev. Mr. Sanborn, president ; Hon. John Eddy, vice-president ; Rev. B. P. Ripley, secretary ; S. J. W. Reynolds, treasurer.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The first agricultural meeting of this county was held at the house of Col. Francis Henry, of this village, January 1st, 1817, to organize a Society for the promotion of agriculture and the useful arts. Its first officers were : Jacob Morris, president, John H. Prentiss, recording secretary ; James F. Cooper, corresponding secretary. In 1841 the Society was re-organized ; and again, on a stronger basis, in 1855.

The grounds now owned by this Society, on the southern border of the village, where its annual Fairs are held, are extensive, beautifully located, and valuable, and the several buildings well adapted to the uses required.

The present Officers of the Society are as follows : President—Tolman C. Smith ; Vice-Presidents—G. Pomeroy Keese, James R.

Morris, W. Dean Burditt, E. H. Barney, Peter Barton, G. Hyde Clarke, Horace M. Pierce, George Nellis, Frank C. Campbell ; Secretary—Henry K. Jarvis ; Treasurer—Andrew Davidson ; Directors—John B. Hooker, Charles Bates, James Bunyan, H. M. Hooker, Charles Childs, Abel Sill.

THE OTSEGO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

This was organized at the Court House in this village, July 1st, 1806, pursuant to an act of the Legislature of this State, passed April 4th in the same year, authorizing physicians duly licensed as such to form societies in every county in the State, and constituting them when so formed bodies corporate. At the first meeting of this Society there were present fourteen physicians who constituted themselves members, and elected the following

Officers: Dr. Joseph White of Cherry Valley, president ; Dr. Thomas Fuller of this village, vice-president ; Dr. Caleb Richardson of Burlington, secretary ; Dr. Isaac North, treasurer.

The present officers of the Society are : Dr. J. H. Moon, president ; Dr. O. W. Peck, vice-president ; Dr. L. H. Hills, treasurer ; Dr. H. D. Blanchard, secretary.

COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

This Society was organized in 1875, and has held annual meetings ever since. It embraces most of the Sunday Schools of the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and those of a few other churches in this county.

Its present officers are : Hon. John Eddy, president ; Dr. L. H. Hills, vice-president ; Henry Saunders, secretary ; S. H. Sherman, treasurer ; C. W. Smith, statistical secretary ; Mrs. A. E. Babbitt, Woman's Missionary Aid secretary.

TRIALS FOR TAKING LIFE—EXECUTIONS.

STEPHEN ARNOLD, a school teacher in the town of Burlington, in June, 1805, was tried and convicted of whipping a little girl with such brutal severity, for her inability correctly to pronounce a word, that she died four days after the occurrence. A gallows was erected in the edge of Middlefield, near the Main street bridge, and Arnold was led out for execution. The Rev. Isaac Lewis preached a sermon to the crowd that had gathered there. At 9 o'clock that morning a messenger had arrived with a reprieve, but the fact was not made known to Arnold until the noose had been placed about his neck. For this act the Sheriff was justly and severely censured.

PHILO THOMPSON, of Cherry Valley, was in 1826 indicted for the

murder of Samuel Campbell, whom he killed in a quarrel, in which both were more or less to blame; he hit him with a hoe, causing death. Tried at the July term of Oyer and Terminer, found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to State prison for seven years.

On the 3d of September, 1827, LEVI KELLY, a farmer of the town of Otsego, shot and killed a man named Abraham Spafard, who lived in his house as tenant. Kelly was a man of violent temper, from the effects of which Spafard was trying to shield a boy, when Kelly shot him. He was tried and convicted in November, and executed December 28, 1827, on the lot where the Cooper House now stands, on Chestnut street, before a large concourse of people, though the rain poured in torrents in the morning. A staging erected for the accommodation of 600 people gave way, just before the execution; two men were killed, and upwards of a score were injured, several of them severely. Kelly manifested much solicitude and interest in this sad accident.

DAVID DARBY, a blacksmith of Cherry Valley, was tried and convicted in December, 1826, for striking, in a fit of anger, and killing his employer, named Smith B. Reynolds. The sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. But Darby was broken in health and was pardoned out after a short imprisonment.

In April, 1845, DENNISTON ROGERS, of Plainfield, was tried for the murder of his wife, and was acquitted. It was claimed that his cruelty was so great, perpetrated during a fit of intoxication, that he would unquestionably have been convicted under an indictment for manslaughter.

LEVI CLEARWATER was indicted and tried in September, 1846, for the killing of Nathan Tiffany of Milford, in May of that year. He was defended by Gov. Seward, and was convicted of manslaughter in the third degree.

PATRICK McNAMARA, of Richfield, killed his wife in 1859, by pounding her with a club. It was a cruel murder; yet the jury, at the trial in June, failed to convict McNamara on that charge, and he was sent to State prison for life.

Mrs. ELIZABETH P. McCRAVEY, of Oneonta, was tried in December, 1860, for the alleged poisoning of her step-daughter, a young lady named Huldah Baker. She was acquitted. In the June following she was tried on the charge of poisoning her husband's brother, Allen Baker of Oneonta, and again acquitted. Both of these persons evidently met their death by poison.

MYRON A. BUELL, a young farm laborer, to conceal another crime, killed a beautiful young girl named Catherine M. Richards, of the town of Plainfield, in July, 1878, by choking her to death with a

strap. She was the daughter of his employer. He was tried for the offense, the following winter, convicted of murder, and executed within the jail premises by Sheriff James F. Clark, Nov. 14, 1879.

In September, 1883, a young married woman named MARY SERGEANT was tried for poisoning her infant child. She was acquitted on the ground of insanity at the time, and was sent to the insane asylum, where she remained a year or more, when she was allowed to go home, being pronounced well.

In August, 1884, after a prolonged debauch, and while still under the influence of liquor, JAMES F. CLAYTON, of Middlefield, shot and killed his little girl, aged about three years. On the ground of "temporary insanity" imputed to him, Clayton was sent to State prison for life.

JOHN M. SCHUYLER, a barber of the town of Morris, while somewhat under the influence of liquor, seized his little daughter, aged about three years, and killed her by striking her head against a block of wood. He is now confined in the county jail, awaiting trial. The same plea of "temporary insanity," it is said, will be offered in this case.

BRIEF MENTION OF FACTS OF INTEREST.

In the fall of 1852 the County Fair was held at Morris and the attendance was very large.

In February of 1853 Oneonta issued its first newspaper, L. P. Carpenter proprietor.

In 1854 the late Benjamin Rathbun of Springfield gave \$12,000 to five different missionary and educational societies.

In November of 1854 Isaac Lane of Decatur, who was one of Washington's Guard in the Revolution, died at the age of 93 years.

At the fall election of 1859 Joshua Griffin, aged 94, voted in Middlefield. Ebenezer Lisk in Otsego, aged 97, was this fall unable to attend.

In August, 1863, Timothy Herkimer, an Exeter farmer, was arrested and placed in jail, by orders from the War Department at Washington, which resisted a writ of habeas corpus granted by Judge Nelson. Afterwards Herkimer was for a time confined in Fort Lafayette. He was charged with uttering "disloyal sentiments."

On the 2d of September, 1864, a serious accident occurred at Springfield Center. A large number of persons were injured by the giving away of a floor in a public hall, during the progress of an entertainment.

On the 1st of November, 1864, there was great excitement in Unadilla and elsewhere over the arbitrary arrest in Washington, by order

of the military authorities, of Col. Samuel North of that village—he being one of the Agents of this State to look after the welfare of the Soldiers. The false charges made against him were all disproved, and after suffering great indignities he was pronounced “not guilty” by the unanimous verdict of a drum-head Court Martial.

On the 29th of August, 1865, Oneonta celebrated the completion and opening of the A. & S. R. R. to that village. It was a grand event, and there was a great concourse of people in attendance.

Twice in June, 1866, Cherry Valley suffered from destructive fires. Losses aggregated about \$72,000.

On the night of August 16, 1866, thirteen buildings were destroyed by fire in Gilbertsville. Loss \$30,000 to \$40,000; insurance about \$10,000. The work of an incendiary.

In July, 1867, occurred the failure of the Unadilla Bank, entailing heavy losses on the people of that village and elsewhere.

December 12, 1867, occurred a fire at Schenevus, destroying property to the amount of \$23,000.

In August of 1869 there was great excitement all along the Susquehanna valley, over a fight for the control of the A. & S. railroad. Legal complications followed. The Governor had to command the peace at one time during the active war, in which a great deal of sharp practice was shown.

On the 3d of March, 1870, there was great public rejoicing in Cherry Valley over the completion of the C. V. R. R., the last spike having been driven on the 1st day of that month.

In April, 1872, Mrs. Shannon, of Cherry Valley, willed about \$9,200 to various religious and charitable societies.

A disastrous fire occurred at Roseboom on the 11th of January, 1873, destroying property to the amount of \$17,500.

On May 11, 1874, occurred a large fire at Gilbertsville; 25 buildings destroyed; loss about \$100,000. This was another act of incendiarism.

At the Schenevus Fair of September, 1875, Governor Tilden was present, and delivered an address to the large concourse of people.

In 1876 Miss Kate Roseboom built a beautiful stone church for the Presbyterian Society of Cherry Valley, at a cost of about \$35,000.

July 4, 1878, there was a grand celebration at Hartwick, and Dr. Richard Fry, who was the Orator of the Day in 1828, fifty years previous, was the speaker on this occasion.

August 22, 1878, occurred the Centennial Celebration of Cherry Valley. There was a large concourse of people present. Governor Seymour and Douglass Campbell were the principal speakers.

May 11, 1879, a very destructive fire occurred on Sunday in Una-

dilla, by which about \$32,000 of property was destroyed, and the best part of the business portion of the town laid in ashes.

The late Lester Taylor of Otsego in 1879 gave \$2,000 each to Clinton Liberal Institute and the St. Lawrence University—institutions of learning of the Universalist Church.

Died, May 13, 1880, in the town of Otsego, Mrs. Thomas King, aged 101 years in February, and leaving 100 descendants.

In the fall of 1882 hops sold in Otsego county at \$1.15 to \$1.25 a pound. Price dropped to 25 cents in July following—many growers still holding.

September 8, 1883, there occurred a fire at Morris, which destroyed property to the amount of about \$35,000.

Died, in Exeter, April, 1884, Mrs. Polly Donaghe, aged 103 years and nine months. She was a native of this country, and her maiden name was Tafft.

August, 1884, the new and handsome Presbyterian church at Gilbertsville was dedicated. The entire cost of the edifice was about \$40,000. The old edifice was in use 51 years.

In March, 1884, occurred the failure of the Morris banking house, entailing heavy losses on the people of that and neighboring towns.

In 1884 the Otsego County Bible Society made a careful canvass of the county, and had a copy of the Bible placed in every family destitute of it, where it would be received.

The banking house of P. H. Mitchell & Co., Schenectady, failed in December, 1884, owing depositors about \$112,000, and with assets amounting to only about \$50,000. A long and expensive litigation followed, the assignment being declared fraudulent and set aside.

In 1885 the endowment fund of Hartwick Seminary had been increased to about \$35,000, not counting anything from the James F. Clark estate of Ohio.

Good to choice hops were selling in this county, crop of 1885, for 4 to 8 cents in the early spring of 1886—the highest considerably below the cost of production.

Richfield Springs has made great progress within the present decade: new stores and dwellings, improved hotels, a good bank, water works, a sewerage system, increased population, etc. Oneonta shows a still greater growth and more rapid increase in population and wealth.

Early in the present century, there were about thirty distilleries in this county, making whisky, four or five of which were located in the town of Otsego. The cider mills were at the same time very numerous.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS and thanks are tendered, with due appreciation, to those friends who have kindly contributed toward making this book of interest and worth to those to whom it is specially dedicated:

To Miss CARRIE M. HILLS, for her finely written article on "The Glimmerglass," much assistance in collating and preparing for the press data embraced in "The Chronicles" from 1838 to 1886, and proof-reading.

To Mr. G. POMEROY KEESE, for his valuable article on local "Meteorology," and the statistics accompanying it relating to the ice leaving the Lake; an article on "The Cooper Monument," etc.

To Miss SUSAN FENIMORE-COOPER, for her interesting articles on "The Thanksgiving Hospital" and "The Orphan House of the Holy Saviour."

To Mr. ELIHU PHINNEY, for his article and valuable statistics on "Fish and Fishing in Otsego Lake."

To Dr. JOHN K. LEANING, for his brief sketch of Fly Creek and its early settlers.

To Mr. ISAAC K. WILLIAMS, for his chapter on Pierstown history, of special interest to the families who were the principal early settlers of that neighborhood and their now widely-scattered descendants. He has collated and put on record facts which might otherwise have been lost to the next generation.

The Essay of the late Hon. ISAAC N. ARNOLD on Mr. Cooper, is the tribute not only of a warm personal friend and admirer, but is the most discriminating and just, and one of the best written panegyrics on the great Novelist and Naval Historian, which has ever been published. Mr. Arnold wielded a polished and scholarly pen. We also give an extract of local interest from an address which he made in Cooperstown a few years before his death.

INDEX.

Abbe de Raffcourt,	23	Cooper, Miss Anna	37
Academy, subscription,	29	Churches, early established,	36-39
Agricultural Society of Co ,	73, 231	Court House,	43
Aqueduct Association,	108, 153	Cooperstown in 1838,	54
Averell, William H.	161	Cooper's libel suits,	64
Arnold, Isaac N., address	167	Clark, Edward	73, 118, 161
do. his tribute to Cooper, 192-206		Cooper Monument,	75
Acknowledgment to contributors,	237	Civil War, meetings,	78, 82, 84
		Catholic Church,	86, 87
Bowers' Patent,	6	Cooper House, hotel,	93, 106
Bowerstown,	7	County Buildings,	100, 107
Bowers, Mrs.	7	Centennial Year,	103
Bowers, Henry and John M.	41	Carter, Mrs. Jane R.	109
Bank incorporated,	50	Court House, laying of the Corner	Stone, 109
Bouck's visit, Gov	64		
Bank Robbery,	68	Central Hotel,	121
Bank of Cooperstown,	71	Christ Church,	123
Barber, Andrew M.	72, 162	Corporation of Cooperstown,	141
Bowne, George L.	78, 161	Churches in Cooperstown,	143-146
Baptist Church,	91, 120	Cooperstown R.R. Co.,	153
Ballard House,	103	Cory, Ellery	160
Bowen, Samuel A	121, 162	Clarke, Thomas	162
Banks in Cooperstown	152	Crippen, Mrs. Schuyler	162
Bible Society,	231	Clarke, Alfred	163
Bowers, Martha S.	162	Cooperst'n facts and incidents,	164-167
Bowers, John M.	163	do walks, drives and	
Bowne, Samuel S.	163	sails near,	170
		Cooper, personal recollections of,	206
Chronicles of Cooperstown,		Cooper monument,	208
Cooper, 9-61			
do. do S. M. Shaw,	62-129	Dedication,	3
Clinton's Campaign,	8, 14	Dix, John A.	52
Cooper, William	12, 170	Distinguished Visitors,	84
do. do. death of	42	Death of Old Residents,	173-177
Cooper's Patent,	14		
Cooperstown, first settlement,	19, 20	Ernst, Rev. John F.	37
do. first buildings,	21, 22	Empire House,	68, 73, 90
do. first store,	23	Earthquakes,	88, 105, 125
do. first child born,	25	Edwards, Edward	100
do. first minister,	29	Early Society of Cooperstown,	107
do. first M. C. elected,	31		

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Fire Engines first obtained, | 44 | Morehouse, E. B. | 68 |
| Fires, | 46, 49, 66 78, 106, 108, 125 | Marcy, Gov. Wm. L. | 69 |
| Freeman's Journal, | 102, 108 | Musical Convention, | 72 |
| Fire Department, | 151 | Methodist Church, | 103 |
| Fowler, Dr. E. P. | 120, 122 | Memorial Day, | 125 |
| Facts of Interest, | 164-167 | McIntosh, Thos. | 162 |
| Fish & Fishing in Otsego Lake, | 165-191 | Morehouse, Mrs. E. B. | 162 |
| Fly Creek, | 212 | Meteorology, local, | 177-180 |
| | | Medical Society, | 232 |
| Gas Light for Streets, | 78 | Newspapers, | 44, 59, 149 |
| Garfield, President | 117 | Nelson, Judge Samuel | 52, 93, 99, 159 |
| Grant, Gen U. S. | 126 | | |
| Glimmerglass, | 130 | Otsego Lake and Vicinity. | 6-8 |
| Gregory, Kate Worthington | 168 | Oldest residents, | 51, 157-159 |
| "Hall, The" built, | 33, 52 | Otsego Republican, | 73 102, 122 |
| do. changed to hotel | | Otsego Co. Bible Society, | 84 |
| and burned, | 70 | Otsego Lake Building Association, | 89 |
| Hausman, Esaias | 41 | Orphan House, | 117, 118, 123 |
| Hotels, early established, | 48, 49 | Otsego, Town of | 212 |
| Hop Growers' Association, | 65 | Otsego, County of | 224-238 |
| Harris, E. M., appointed Co Judge, | 83 | | |
| Hotel Fenimore, | 102, 121 | Preface, | 5 |
| | | Phinney, Elihu | 31 |
| Ireland, relief, | 65 | Population of Cooperstown 1812, | 44 |
| | | do. do 1820-'35, | 49 |
| Jail burned, | 63 | Printing House of H. & E. Phinney, | 59 |
| Jail, Court House, and Sheriff's | | do destroyed by fire, | 66 |
| Residence built, | 63 | Professional and Business Men | |
| | | of Cooperstown, 154-157 | |
| Kingfisher Tower, | 104 | Pioneer Boat Club, | 86 |
| Keese, Theodore | 160 | Phinney, Henry F. | 90, 91, 160 |
| | | Pioneer Mills, | 106 |
| Le Quoy de Mersereau, | 27 | Prentiss, Col. John H. | 77, 160 |
| Library first opened, | 34 | Phinney, Elihu, Sen., | 159 |
| Lawyers, the first, | 48 | Pomeroy, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. | 160 |
| Lake Otsego, | 55 | Points of interest near Coop'st'n, | 170 |
| Lakewood Cemetery, | 73, 126 | Pierstown, | 214-223 |
| Lake Navigation, | 74, 93 | | |
| Lincoln, President | 85 | Roads first built, | 32 |
| Lakelands, sale of | 119 | Railroad projected in 1839, | 62 |
| Lee, Frederick A. | 121, 161 | Railroad Matters, | 70, 83, 89, 91, 102 |
| Literary Society, | 151 | | |
| Lathrop, Horace | 160 | Society in Cooperstown, | 57 |
| | | Seward's first visit, Gov. | 63 |
| Masonic Hall, | 42, 127 | Seminary, The | 70, 85, 87 |
| Military Companies, | 45 | Snow Storm in April, | 74 |
| Members of Congress, | 48 | Seymour, Gov. | 88 |
| Manufactories, | 59 | Steamers on Lake, | 90 |

Sturges, H.	193, 109, 123, 162	Union School,	88, 91, 147
Sewerage System,	118, 120	Village Trustees elected,	43
Skating Rink,	122	Van Buren's first visit, President	63
Schools, public and private,	147	Wilson, Mrs.	7
Secret Societies,	150	Washington, Gen.	7, 12
Story, Joshua H.	161	Whipping Post,	31
Sill, Jedediah P.	161	Water Supply,	65.
Scott, Henry	161	Worthington Bank,	72, 92
Smith, Dr. Thomas	162	Weed, Thurlow	92
Spafard, Dr. Ariel	163	Worthington, John R.	160
Sunday School Association,	232	Wilson, William	162
Thanksgiving Sermon first pr'ch'd,	32	Williams, Isaac, Jr.	163
Temperance movement,	64, 65	Wood, Mrs. Levi	163
Telegraph Line,	69	Williams, Isaac K.	164
Thanksgiving Hospital,	86, 87, 91, 180	Young Men's Association,	86
Telephone System,	119, 153		
Trials for Life,	232		





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